



Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents Association

www.theaspra.org.uk

**Minutes of 28th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 27 April 2017 at 8pm
in The Pavilion, St Mildred's, 30 Bingham Road**

1. Welcome and apologies.

Chris Facey, Liz Brereton, Mary Alexander, Lorna Elliott, Sarah Hills, Andrew Rendle, Jenny Tighe and Maddie Henson

2. Introductions

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

Minutes agreed

4. Gavin Barwell

He apologised for being late due Parliament prorogation.

Business rates need a general re evaluation and he is keen to help with the Blackhorse situation.

He is due to give evidence before the inspector on the Croydon Plan. Concerns around areas of intensification which would see 2 storey housing replace with 4 storey buildings.

He would have preferred to see the Fairfield Halls done in phases which would have kept the expertise of the volunteers and staff.

Plan is for the revised Westfield to start early in the new year. Editor Phil Poole wanted to know when it was really going to start as there have been lots of delays. Gavin advised there is a three year window when given the plans and it is difficult to identify all the reasons for delays but there are two major changes/improvements. M&S are now having a new flagship store which will improve the entrance to the shopping centre from West Croydon and more housing is now included in the plan. Council and GLA have agreed companies will cease trading after Christmas and move into their new homes. (M&S will be in the top of Central). Gavin is in regular talks with all concerned. News of the Westfield development four years ago spurred on the Ruskin Square and Box Park developments.

Trends have turned around since Nestle moved out with companies like Body Shop coming to the area and HMRC, which, in the long term will give improved job opportunities.

The challenge is how to stop changes happening so fast that it pushes local people out.

Colin Gamm asked how much is affordable housing? Gavin said that an individual can borrow 4 times their earnings and a couple 3 times their joint earnings. In the Croydon area they now need 11 to 1 and the housing crisis has built up over the last 30 to 40 years with both parties responsible over this period. In the short term the government have help to buy schemes and in the longer term more houses need to be built. We need to build tall and provide enough car parking spaces and use brown space. He would like to see St Georges Walk redeveloped and for the council to be given powers to prevent developers just sitting on their land as an investment and not developing it.

Road Rep Jenny Crooke asked about overseas buyers and Gavin said those that need to work here and in their own country were acceptable as were foreign buyers who rented to those living here but it was not acceptable for foreign buyers to leave properties empty.

Membership Secretary Dave Lee said that permitted developments and conversions allowed no opportunities for aspirational properties to move into and was also used inconsistently in this area. Gavin agreed we need gentrification and do not want the area getting poorer and poorer as there would be no mix.

Local rail services are still fairly shocking with track and signal issues. They are currently working on the London Bridge route and this will be followed by the Victoria route. East Croydon requires two extra platforms. The issues with strikes and the franchise also need to be tackled

5. Councillors Report

Report annexed

Councillor Stephen Mann informed us that due to the success of the community budget the councillors are being given £8000 to support projects.

ASPRA's festive lights have been acclaimed across Croydon and that our notice board will hopefully be in the ground soon. He congratulated the garden group saying that there was something different each time he walked through the park.

Since Idverde have taken over running the parks there is an issue with intermittent opening and closing times and they are working with them to resolve this.

The old library at Ashburton Park is two months away from opening with Nisai Group leasing and running the building in partnership with Fit 2 Learn who will run a community café where we will all be welcome. There will also be community gardening etc.

We now have 20mph speed limit with so many signs that we can't but help be aware. It is hoped it will increase road safety. Police are able to enforce it.

The tram crash shows the great strength of our community and there will be a memorial at the corner of Sandilands. Blackhorse Bridge is due to be back in action in 2019 but we are working to make it sooner. It is causing difficulties for some residents and the shops in Addiscombe. Recently business engagement with Addiscombe shops has started. There have been some closures and some are struggling but we are trying to bring back a good shopping centre.

Road Rep Tom Wells asked about news on rates for the businesses on Lower Addiscombe Road. A lot of the shops have petitions for us to sign. The councillors are waiting for Councillor Watson to report back.

We may have noticed the street cleaners have new hoovers. These are quicker and more thorough. There has been a reduction in fly tipping.

We are currently going through boundary changes and residents have the opportunity to comment.

Editor Phil Poole asked what is happening with Fairfield Hall and will we see the Warehouse Theatre again or the Ashcroft?

Fairfield Halls which was looking very tired is opening at the end of next year and a new operating group has just been chosen. We are looking at way to bring back the Warehouse Theatre and have heard that the next Dick Barton has been written.

6. Magazine Editor's Report.

Report annexed

May's issue is about ready to go out. Chairman's report is outstanding. We hope to go to print on Tuesday. There have been a lot of changes but everyone agreed it is very good and going in the right direction.

7. Advertising Manager and Webmaster's Report.

Not much change, the website is ticking over and we now additionally have Face book. Any offers to help with the website would be much appreciated.

8. Treasurer's Annual Accounts Report.

Treasurer was unable to attend but his report and commentary are now attached. The accounts were independently approved in February.

9. Postmaster and Membership Report.

Report annexed

Membership continues to grow and has increased from 662 previous year to 833 this year as we become more visible and the new style magazine may also help.

I am struggling with emails as providers consider some are spam. BT seems to be the worse but I am gradually learning which words to avoid. The number of failed emails has reduced to 30 out of 600 plus.

Colin Gamm asked how non computer users were covered and Dave explained that Road Reps were aware of those not using email and cover these when required.

10. Project's Report.

Report annexed.

In addition Hilary gave us the latest news on the notice board which was that it was now made and awaiting a powder coating.

Hilary also advised that it would be best to wait until the new traders association is up and running and can give their support to a Christmas tree and the planting scheme, which has previously been agreed, before taking either of these two projects forward.

She thanked Gavin and his office for advising her on who best to approach for the notice board.

Jenny asked what the notice board would be used for and how it would be managed. Hilary said that there would be a committee meeting nearer the time to work out details and possibly there would be a subcommittee to manage it.

Membership Secretary Dave Lee thought that it would be easier if the notices were about regular events rather than one offs and also suggested we rent space to neighbouring residents associations and the cost could support the festive lighting fund.

11. Jumbletrail

Report annexed.

The number of bookings so far is 7 of which 6 are repeat bookings and one is a first timer.

Allen Heritage will be supporting us by providing 50 boards this year.

New this year is the introduction of a buddy scheme where people with a small amount of items can join up with others.

Lyn asked for anyone with links to groups such as brownies etc. to get in touch as they may wish to have their own stall.

Lyn also asked for anyone with links to advertising to get in touch.

Following a piece in the Croydon Citizen to promote our Jumbletrail, neighbouring Woodside has taken up the idea.

Flyers advertising Jumbletrail we handed out to Road Reps at the meeting and it was confirmed these could wait and be delivered to every household in the area with the magazines.

12. Gardening Group

Report annexed

The gardening group is always looking for new volunteers and it doesn't matter how little time you have it all helps. The next community event will be on 3 June.

The latest update is that this week we have finally been given access by the council to the water supply.

Councillor Stephen Mann was thanked for his contribution to the gardening fund and the Tesco Bags of Help Funding has secured us £1000.

Plans for the future are when the two flowerbeds we are currently working on are established we can then add other areas of the park and any ideas and thoughts are very welcome including whether the willow fencing should be kept where it is. Everyone agreed it was very nice fencing especially since it was sprouting leaves.

Lyn thanks the residents for supplying plants which included some people purchasing plants as well as others donating cutting etc.

13. Chairperson's Report.

The chairman advised he had attended a Croydon Planning meeting and the minutes of that meeting are attached.

He described it as a depressing meeting with the person due to run it not turning up and he was pleased to leave after two hours when his parking ticket ran out.

He again raised the question of the traffic lights at the junction of Shirley Road and Lower Addiscombe and Councillor Stephen Mann advised that Councillor Maddie Henson has been working with officers on the lights but the issue is the they are governed by TFL and any tweaking to the sequence would have a knock on effect elsewhere in the area.

14. Review of Annual Subscriptions

Chairman Steve White proposed increasing the subs to £5. Membership Secretary Dave Lee proposed they remain at £4 and this was seconded by Road Rep Sheila Newbold. A vote was taken and the motion carried to keep it at £4.

15. Ballots

i. Any Proposed Changes to Constitution:

None

ii. Election of Committee Members:

1. Chairperson (Steve White)
2. Vice-Chairperson (Mary Alexander)
3. Treasurer – (Frederick Law nominated for re-election) and independent auditor
4. Secretary - (Gill Lee nominated for re-election)
5. Magazine Editor (Phil Poole nominated for re-election)
6. Advertising Manager – (Bob Sleeman nominated for re-election)
7. Membership Secretary – (Dave Lee nominated for re-election)

All members were re elected and Sheila Newbold with support of the attendees thanked the committee and the unelected roles for the wonderful job they were doing.

iii. Unelected, Non-Committee roles:

1. Webmaster – Bob Sleeman (Vacant)
2. Postmaster – Dave Lee (Volunteer)
3. Projects Consultant - Hilary Chelminski (Volunteer)
4. Social Media - Nicola Corbishley (Volunteer)

No change

16. Road Representatives - vacancies

1. Lower Addiscombe Road (194-362)
2. Shirley Road (57 -196)

No volunteers came forward at the meeting.

17. Croydon Local Plan

Covered previously in the meeting.

Residents of Glenthorne Road felt very strongly that they, Shirley Park Road and Peabody Close should be included in the Addiscombe area following proposals to local council boundary changes. They asked for ASPRA's support and the chairman agreed he would send in a representation from ASPRA. The postmaster will send the information to members of ASPRA on email. Everyone is aware it is now a very short deadline – 8 May.

Gavin Barwell MP confirmed the parliamentary boundaries were now put on hold due to the election.

18. Neighbourhood Watch Support

Bob advised that this was not well funded and a motion was passed for £200 from ASPRA to be given to NHW.

Also agreed was free advertising for NHW in the ASPRA magazine and Hilary will send the editor the relevant article by tomorrow as the magazine is about to go to print.

Councillor Stephen Mann offered support from his community budget.

Chairman was concerned about ASPRA's affordability for this donation. He mentioned Vice chair needed access to the bank account to do analysis of costs but was advised it was not necessary and all the information for Mary is the monthly bank statements sent to the committee as well as in the annual statement from our accountant issued for the February Road Rep meeting and covering the ASPRA financial year.

When querying why the NHW signs are so high up the lampposts Bob advised this is a council requirement.

19. AOB

Phil – he would arrange for a committee photo to be taken after the meeting for the magazine. He had also received an advert request that day but it was too late for this magazine. He hadn't been able to find anything out about the Addiscombe Carnival but details can be found at <http://www.addiscombecarnival.org.uk/>

Hilary – asked who to complain to about a rented property 100 Bingham Road whose state was causing concern and Councillor Stephen Mann said to send it to him. There were other sites in the area also causing concern such as the flats on the Blackhorse pub site.

Lyn – asked that we support Cafe Adagio with their community events of open mike evening and tomorrow there was going to be a poetry evening.

Steve - 313 Addiscombe Road has been turned into 4 apartments. A discussion followed about planning in the area and Croydon Council website Planning Finder not working so ASPRA cannot easily pick up on new planning applications. Chairman Steve White is going to approach a resident in Whitethorn Gardens to take on the role of planning officer for ASPRA as he has a lot of knowledge and experience.

The club house at the cricket ground in Sandilands has been beautifully refurbished and at the moment you don't have to be a member so please support it.

20. Dates of next meetings all at St Mildreds:

- Wednesday 14 June 2017 Road Representatives Meeting in the Small Hall
- Monday 4 September 2017 Road Representatives Meeting in the Small Hall
- Thursday 8 February 2018 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- Wednesday 25 April 2018 ASPRA AGM in the Pavilion

21. Meeting finished at 9:50pm.