

ASPRA PROJECTS REPORT  
AGM - APRIL 2016

1) Local Heritage Area Application

During its involvement in consultations over the Croydon Local Plan, in 2014 Croydon Council's Spatial Planning Department invited ASPRA to apply for Local Heritage Area designation, following our neighbouring roads' recent designation as a Conservation Area due to their connection with Addiscombe Place and the East India Company.

ASPRA applied similarly on the grounds of its historic association with Ashburton House, which stood on the corner of Northampton Road and Lower Addiscombe Road until demolition in 1912/13. The area that ASPRA covers mirrors closely that of the original Ashburton Estate.

Earlier this year we heard that although the ASPRA area is considered to have "attractive residential locations and good examples of interwar suburban development, because these buildings are similar to others in Croydon and in the country, these areas would not meet the criteria for Local Heritage designation". However, the character of the area is said to be already successfully recognised and managed by the National Planning Policy Framework, the London Plan and the Croydon Local Plan.

During the course of the review it was noted that there are a number of well-preserved buildings of note that have potential for local listing, for which six buildings have now been put forward. The houses in Bingham Road near the Tram Stop are already protected, and Ashburton Avenue may be considered for its connection with R F Delderfield.

2) Addiscombe Festive Lights

With grateful thanks to all ASPRA Members, Christmas 2015 saw the first year of ASPRA's sponsorship of the Addiscombe Christmas Lights, and they were considered a great success by all who saw them.

Although we received some very welcome and notable donations towards the costs, despite requests nothing at all came in from any of the larger "chain" businesses and shops in the area, although they will hopefully have benefitted from the festive atmosphere created by the Lights. It was resolved that we should start fundraising earlier this year

Last year we applied to Croydon Council's Active Communities Fund for a Microgrant of £1,000 towards the cost of the Lights, but were turned down.

Similarly, we were turned down for a Small Grant of £5,000 towards the Lights for which we applied early this year.

The good news is that Councillor Andrew Rendle has now very kindly offered ASPRA £1,000 towards the cost of this year's Lights (£2,500) from his personal Ward Grant Fund, which is very welcome indeed.

In addition, he has indicated that, if the Ward Grant Funds continue, he will also be happy to contribute towards the cost of the Public Notice Board at a later date. So that is also very welcome news.

### 3) Christmas Tree

We have not heard anything more about Blackhorse RA's plans for a Christmas Tree, but Skanska have let us know that they do offer a service whereby Christmas Trees can be installed on behalf of a Residents' Association.

However, Skanska cannot carry any risk on the installation of these trees and shall only be responsible for the dressing & maintenance of the festive lights on the trees, as is in line with the PFI Contract.

If a Christmas Tree could be installed at Blackhorse Corner, it has been suggested that the Addiscombe Traders might arrange for a late night shopping evening, and various choirs & charities have already expressed interest in taking part in some way.

We have been warned by Shirley Residents' Association that their carol concerts & celebrations in previous years became so successful that they eventually had to discontinue them when thousands of people & cars began turning up!

### 4) Public Notice Board

After liaison with Croydon Council Managers, a site for this has been suggested close to the bollards near the zebra crossing at Blackhorse Corner.

A design in keeping with the existing Black Horse sign has been proposed, and that the Board be free-standing and double-sided.

However, all this is subject to Planning Permission and permission from the Highways Agency and others. It often takes a long time to obtain any replies from the various departments and personnel involved.

### 5) Addiscombe Decorative Planting Scheme

This remains on the "back burner" for now, until ASPRA is on a surer footing financially following the expense of the Festive Lights.

However, we have been in discussion with various Council Departments and Contractors, and told of some grants that might possibly be available for us.

Hilary Chelminski  
ASPRA Projects Consultant.