



Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents Association

www.theaspra.org.uk

**Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 25 April 2018 at 8pm
in The Pavilion, St Mildred's, 30 Bingham Road**

1. **Apologies** from Sid and Di Hamilos, Margaret and Alfred Menezes, Krishnan, Melvyn and Neva Sequeira, Claire Brialey, Sarah Beney, Paul Pinder, Jan Rutter, George Orlebar, Mark, Stephen Mann, Andrew Rendall, Sarah Jones MP may be a little late as she has 3-line whip so has to be in the House of Commons

2. **Introductions to committee and Road Reps**

3. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

No matters arising and minutes approved

The secretary was congratulated on her minutes.

4. **Sarah Jones MP**

Sarah slipped in part way through the meeting and explained that her role is:

- To help people with problems. No problem is too small and vary for example from dog poo to immigration.
 - To represent us in parliament
 - Support causes we are involved in and help amplify them.
- Being very involved in the campaign against knife crime and was interested to hear from resident Vince Hemment regarding his voluntary work with young offenders.

Sarah also said Education was a priority, especially the lack of Special needs support.

Sarah also spoke about the 2 tower blocks in central Croydon with similar cladding to Grenfell Tower and there was a question about VAT concessions.

There followed a discussion on the property 114 Addiscombe Road which has a planning application for flats and whether ASPRA should be putting in objections or leaving it to individuals. Sarah is only allowed to object to large scale developments.

Jeet Baines a road rep (currently a councillor in a different ward) took us through the process of a planning application and objections to it.

Sarah informed us that according to the Croydon Plan is that, over a twenty-year period, it will provide 30,000 extra units of which 10,000 are central, 10,000 are brown field and 10,000 are the rest of the borough. The idea is to keep the areas recognisably the same. She said that Croydon Council had a preference for infilling to provide additional housing.

She mentioned that there was a need for investment in the North of England as the South was too full.

She was questioned about when Westfield would start and she would let us know when she has a meeting with them.

Flagship store John Lewis is still on the table. She was unable to explain the reason it has taken this long when planning was passed 4 years ago. The Taberner House development has just started. When asked about the Fairfield Halls which is due to open in December with the remaining areas in the New Year she said plans were to have lots of community events and to keep seats low priced but more detail would come latter. Councillor Maddie can arrange for tours for ASPRA.

5. **Councillors' Report**

Maddie apologised for not being able to attend the last couple of meeting due to pregnancy complications. She was congratulated on becoming a new mum for the second time. She said it had been an honour and a privilege to work with us over the last 4 years.

As it is near to election time and wanted to ensure she did not get political, she asked for questions.

She advised that the work on Blackhorse Lane has been started and Blackhorse is planned for it to finish January.

Maddie can arrange visits to site for school children who are interested in becoming engineers etc.

More questions on developments in the area and to note are that

Applications are no longer tied to lampposts

There have been problems with the planning finder service

When a councillor puts in an objection it receives a different status and is then referred to planning committee

Maddie has to be careful of conflict of interest and one development is very close to her home

More and more are being allowed under permitted development

When objecting there is a tick box to complete on line
Consider inviting Pete Smith the chief planning officer to an ASPRA meeting
Bob and Hilary used to attend the planning meetings
Steve (chair) planned to go to the Croydon Housing Hustings the next evening where the 3 main party candidates will answer questions on housing in the borough. Notice of this meeting was not circulated to members as it was considered too political.
Our members think we don't want more flats in our area as it is ruining Community Spirit.
Proposed and seconded were motions carried for Steve (chair) to send an ASPRA letter of objection to the proposed development at 114 Addiscombe Road and the development behind Shirley Park Road.
Maddie is very happy with the old Ashburton library has been developed and it is being well used with a café currently being put in.
When Steve (chair) asked if ASPRA could use it free of charge for their meetings he was advised that it depended on the nature of community use but there are discounted rates.

6. Magazine Editor's Report

Report circulated with the agenda. The cover of the next magazine was passed around. 2000 issues are being ordered for the subscription copy. There has been an increase in adverts but need to keep its readability. This copy will come out at 50p a copy the other issues at 62p per copy. The increase in adverts now covers over 50% of the cost of the magazine. There are to be recruitment specials on the gardening group and Jumbletrail. An interesting article on what was Hall and Mantons will also be included. Generally the magazine is doing well but we would like to see some younger people involved.

Jane is to email Phil with the nuisance phone number to put in the magazine. This is the number for reporting builders working out of hours etc.

7. Advertisement Manager's Report

Report circulated with the agenda and combined with the Magazine Editors report. See above.

8. Social Media Coordinator's Report

Report circulated with the agenda and Nicola took us through some interesting statistics related to our page in her first official report. Statistics show that the page is reaching beyond the members and area including someone from Ghana is looking in! 70% of followers are women. Nicola likes to leave a gap between posting so there is not a feeling of being bombarded. Please send things of local interest to Nicola preferably via Facebook or alternatively use the ASPRA secretary email address. She is trying to keep the page free of business adverts. She appreciates guidance from the committee on how much to share and is thinking of doing something on joining ASPRA.

9. Webmaster's Report

George sent an email to the secretary shortly before the meeting to apologise for being unable to attend but also to confirm he fully accepts the role of Webmaster and is taking over the current site and is also looking to develop a new site for the future. He will consult with Bob regarding handover etc.

10. Treasurer's Annual Accounts and Report

Report circulated with the agenda. The treasurer said that we have had a stable year and made a good start to the new year. Adverts are being chased. It would be good to have the businesses buy into the festive lighting.

Fred asked if costing from alternative printers had been sought. Phil and Colin explained that they had built up a very good relationship with the local company TD Print. They have been very helpful with storing adverts etc. The good quality paper used attracts advertisers.

Proposed and seconded was to retain TD print and the vote was unanimous.

11. Postmaster and Membership Secretary's Report

Report circulated with the agenda.

12. Project Consultant's Report

Report circulated with the agenda and Hilary took us through this.

13. Jumble Trail Report

Report circulated with the agenda. The date has been set for Sunday 30 September. HOME, CHASE and Blackhorse residents' associations will be joining ASPRA this year. This year a different booking system is needed. At the initial planning meeting, Jenny and Lyn will recommend that Jumble Trail income be directed to the Addiscombe Festive Lights.

14. Gardening Group Report

Report circulated with the agenda. More volunteers would be much appreciated and we could then consider improving other areas of the park. A representative from Tesco came to the park and presented a cheque for the funds given by them. She was very impressed with what had been achieved and also thought the park was lovely. She together with Mieke our council contact may consider putting some charity events on in the park.

15. Chairperson's Report

Steve had nothing much to report. He considers we need a "fighting fund" to employ professionals to object to planning developments. A discussion later in the meeting found he was very much in the minority with this. Harris and Bailey are donating £500 again this year for the festive lights. Colin advised the Claret and Ale would like to be a lot more involved with our projects.

16. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

An email has been sent to all ASPRA members in relation to this and so far there has been a 21% response. There will be a box on the subs envelope which road reps will need to check has been ticked. Phil has put some information about this in the magazine.

17. Review of Annual Subscriptions

Steve (chair) advised ASPRA's funds are depleted from 10 years ago and we need a fighting fund to protect our area from developments. He was advised that other resident associations have this within their committee.

Steve proposed that the subscription was increased to £5. Views were expressed that we need to increase membership, currently 830, some 44% of households in the area (it has dropped since the days of the dustcart rounds) and should not be penalising those that are members by levying an increase on them. It was felt that with high profile projects such as lighting and Jumbletrail together with a good magazine should help encourage more members. The historical increases were also looked at and then a vote was taken with the majority agreeing to retain the subscription at £4.

18. Ballots

1. Any Proposed Changes to Constitution – no changes proposed
2. Election of Committee Members:
 - i. Chairperson (Steve White nominated for re-election)
 - ii. Vice-Chairperson (Mary Alexander nominated for re-election)
 - iii. Treasurer (Frederick Law nominated for re-election)
 - iv. Secretary (Gill Lee nominated for re-election)
 - v. Magazine Editor (Phil Poole nominated for re-election)
 - vi. Advertisement Manager (Colin Gamm nominated for election)
 - vii. Membership Secretary (Dave Lee nominated for re-election)

All were voted in on-block.

19. Confirmation of Non-Committee (Unelected) roles:

1. Webmaster - George Orlebar (Volunteer)
 2. Postmaster - Dave Lee (Volunteer)
 3. Projects Consultant - Hilary Chelminski (Volunteer)
 4. Social Media Coordinator - Nicola Corbishley (Volunteer)
- Remain as above

20. Road Representatives - vacancies

Lower Addiscombe Road (194-362) Jonas Cradock volunteered and was accepted as the new road rep

21. Croydon Local Plan

Nothing to add to earlier discussion

22. Links with Oasis Shirley Park

Andrew Thomas (an ASPRA member) introduced himself as an academy councillor at Oasis Shirley Park school. He would like to forge a link between ASPRA and the school. How can the school contribute to and benefit the local community? He will be advising us of email contact details. In the mean-time it was suggested that perhaps the school children would like to assist with some gardening in the Addiscombe Recreation Ground. Another suggestion was that the senior school should obey the traffic lights as there are so many near misses and no one controls the pupils unlike other schools in the area.

23. 20mph Speed Limit

Bernice and Daniel are concerned that the speed limit in the 20mph limit areas seems to be regularly exceeded by motorists locally and we regularly see vehicles traveling in excess of 20mph and indeed the old

30mph limit in Northampton Road, Carlyle Road, Bingham Road and Compton Road. Trade vehicles and high-performance cars seem to be those most likely to be driving too fast. Unfortunately, they cannot attend the AGM but would like ASPRA to press for active police monitoring and enforcement to put across the message that the 20 limit must be complied with. We should add that we are supporters of the 20mph limit, which has been effective to an extent but could be more effective if drivers knew that exceeding the limit had consequences.

Phil advised that there is some correspondence in the magazine about this. Steve reminded us that he and others had applied to monitor traffic speeding but had not received a response.

24. AOB

Carol from HOME residents association gave us a brief talk on the plans for the triangular piece of land between Lower Addiscombe Road and Ashburton Road. They are about to plant some trees. They are getting advice on a notice board. They will be planting bulbs in the autumn and would like our gardening volunteers to help. They also plan to plant poppies and Sarah Hills put in a request that they should be the Shirley poppies to keep the local connection.

Vince asked for the magazine to be sent electronically and was advised that they are put on the website.

Jeet informed us that the crossing at the top of Shirley Road and Addiscombe Road had been visited by TFL who agreed it was dangerous.

Helen from Shirley Park Road handed out copies of the documents relating to the proposed development behind her home and encourage people to object. It was also discussed earlier in the meeting

Lyn said that whilst litter picking at Addiscombe Tramstop with 5 people including some from CHASE. Sarah Jones came by and offered to help next time. Local councillor, Stuart Collins, was shown the fly tipping at the rear of Paddy Power in Colworth Road and will arrange an enforcement notice. TFL are not doing anything about planting.

Time ran out for any more AOBs

Meeting finished at 10pm

Dates for the next meeting all at St Mildreds

- Thursday 14 June 2018 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- Wednesday 5 September 2018 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- Wednesday 6 February 2019 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- Thursday 25 April 2019 ASPRA AGM in the Pavilion