



Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents Association

www.theaspra.org.uk

Minutes of ASPRA Meeting

Wednesday 6 February 2019 8-10pm in the Small Hall, St Mildred's

1. Apologies

Steve White, Sharon Collins, Sylvia Macdonald, Jenny Crook, George Orlebar, Fred Law, John Aitken, Sid and Di Hamilos, Jane Walsh, Maddie Henson, Terry Eames

2. Introductions

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Bob asked for an update on Item 12. Jeet replied there were problems everywhere with bins and that he continues to raise this in the Council. As well as this pressure, he continues to report problems brought to his attention. Claire mentioned that in Shirley Road, week on week, Veolia were responding to complaints. Mary felt that generally Croydon were good at recycling as she knew of a couple of London Boroughs that did not offer anything. Sarah advised that she had tried to recycle some textiles according to the guidance. The bin men threw them on the floor and left them. When Sarah complained a full-sized Veolia lorry turned up to collect this small amount of textiles. Sheila has her textiles collected ok but understands that there is very limited space on the lorries for this type of recycling.

Bob also asked for an update on emptying the bins, and availability of toilets for Addiscombe Recreation Ground and Jeet advised there was no update.

4. Chairperson update

No report provided, chairman on holiday.

5. ASPRA Vacancies

None at this time

6. Magazine update

Report sent prior to meeting.

Phil advised that he and Colin had spent the day building the magazine and it would be ready to go to the printers either Friday or Monday so they were on target. The magazine has 64 pages and should be ready the weekend of 16/17 February for distribution.

7. Adverts Update

Report sent prior to meeting.

Advertisement volumes continue to rise and therefore the editorial content also has to increase. Putting the adverts together is tedious but a necessity as we cannot expect small advertisers to pay out to have them done professionally. Adverts are coming from outside the area. There is currently a lot of optimism from the shopkeepers and a genuine feel-good factor along the shops although the Blackhorse Lane bridge problems clearly continues to affect trade.

8. Website

Report sent prior to meeting.

Nine o'clock in the morning is when the website is looked at most frequently. Apple have also been taking a look. The bill for hosting the website is due soon and Bob plans to host it on his own site as an interim measure. We have a few other people looking into how best to improve and manage our website and Maddie has offered £750 towards costs. Jeet will look at his ward budget, and if he has insufficient funds Richard has advised that the three Shirley North councillors should be able to make up any shortfall. At the previous meeting Maddie's husband also offered help with the website.

9. Social Media update

Report sent prior to meeting.

Facebook is going well with a 100% increase in the number of followers. Nicola suspects not all are members so is planning to put something together to encourage residents in the ASPRA area to join. 74% of followers are women. Most followers are in the 23-44 age bracket. 8pm on weekdays is the most popular time for post engagement. Nicola has a standard response for those looking to advertise on the site, referring them to Colin and Bob. She is encouraging us to share the site and for Road Reps to let people know about it. Nicola was congratulated on tightly managing the site to avoid any unsuitable comments.

10. Finance update

Fred has advised that he has been very busy so hasn't been able to provide us with the report. He will try to get out something in the next week or so. Dave advised that the current account balance stands at £8604.54 and the deposit account is £4149.57. Colin reminded us that figures will fluctuate as advertisements are invariably sold in threes and are prepaid.

11. Projects update

Report sent prior to meeting.

The poppies taken down from lampposts have been cleaned and stored. Bob has volunteered to put them up this year. Chris from CHASE has suggested making them into wreaths. We have two silent soldiers (one damaged but usable in some way). Both the soldier and poppies were agreed for last year only but the general consensus among those at the meeting that they were well received and it would be lovely to use them again this year to commemorate 70 years since the beginning of the Second World War. This will be voted on at the AGM.

£1000 donation towards Christmas lights from both Jeet and Maddie is much appreciated.

There was strong support to continue the Festive Lighting contract – details to be agreed subject to pricing.

There are four key holders for the notice board and having established basic rules it seems to be working well. There has been one incident of graffiti.

A project for a planting scheme along the shops (preferably hanging baskets) was agreed some time ago and we would appreciate a volunteer to take this forward. Anyone interested should contact Hilary at projects@theaspra.org.uk.

At the AGM we should consider both the Projects post and Social Media post joining the committee.

12. Membership and Postmaster update

Report sent prior to meeting.

Currently there are 824 members and we have 1880 dwellings in the area. The ratio seems good for the Croydon area.

Anti-spam issues continue and Dave is now only able to send out approximately 80 emails at two-hourly intervals.

Have looked at alternatives ways to improve this service and Mailchimp is a possibility but there are problems with unsubscribing and mailing list management.

Another interesting development is that some members are subscribing to email safety software. This appears to require the sender to confirm that the email received from ASPRA is genuine.

13. Councillor's update

Jeet advised:

A skip/rubbish problem at 77 Northampton Road was resolved when, following intervention by Jeet and Maddie, an enforcement notice was issued and the area was cleared.

Although it is out of our area Jeet has reported the garage full of mattresses at 114 Addiscombe Road. He was advised this is private land so a different route is needed. Surprising as the Northampton Road skip was also on private land but Jeet is continuing to take this forward.

There has been nothing particularly contentious recently regard planning applications.

It has been circulated that rules on HMOs are changing, Croydon council will require planning permission for some of these from January 2020.

Retrospective planning permission will not prevent properties getting away with a lot that should not be allowed.

A traffic meeting at Ashburton Hall was held to discuss the one-way road systems near East Croydon which are now having an adverse impact on Elgin Road. Traffic counters were set up which showed an increase in traffic of 42-48% for the road. The meeting was conducted by an independent facilitator, but vocal, angry people were able to take over. The positives were that 10 or 12 principles were agreed to move matters forward. A meeting with Residents' Associations (so as to assure it is non-political), is being planned and ASPRA has been asked to provide representative to cover all our roads. The plan is to come up with options and ideas. Please advise secretary@theaspra.org.uk as soon as possible if you are interested in representing road/s.

The opening of Blackhorse Bridge has been delayed a year and is now planned to open in January 2020. Jeet has been actively involved in applying pressure which resulted in Sadiq Khan's involvement. Some action now appears to be happening but whether this is enough to allow the bridge to open earlier is not known yet.

Following some break-ins there are more police patrols in our area. Please do report anything suspicious. A useful website is the police link called Stay Safe: <https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/violence/stay-safe/> Other crime prevention advice can be found at: <https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

Westfield – we don't know what is happening. There are concerns over the increasing amount of social housing required.

Fairfield Halls is due to open September 2019

14. Jumble trail update

Krystyna is joining Jenny and Lyn this year. An email has gone out to check on a date for the event. The proposed date is 15 September 2019. Again, this year the four residents' associations are joining together for this. Booking forms will be available from Addiscombe Security Centre at 8-9 Bingham Corner and Bargain Booze at 315 Lower Addiscombe Road. We were let down last year with estate agent boards but as Hyde & Rowe are now more established, they will be approached again. It has not been agreed yet if the money raised will be for the Addiscombe Christmas Lights.

15. Addiscombe Recreation Ground update

Very little has been done recently although there are signs some secret gardener/s have been at work. Anyone can pop along at any time to help with the flowerbeds. We are hoping to arrange a gardening session in March.

16. AOB

Lyn mentioned the state of the landscaping at Addiscombe tram stop which is a mess and wondered what we can do. Jeet will contact TfL. Stuart Smith mentioned he fell over in the ruts that are caused by maintenance vehicles parking and could some kind of surfacing be done.

Shirley continues to have issues with Ashurst Walk with street cleaning. She took three bags of leaves to the tip. Jeet will look into this. Shirley sent an update the next morning to say her that they had just had a mechanical cleaner do the gutters and were awaiting street cleaning.

Shirley also mentioned the issues with street lighting not being very bright. Maddie looked into this a couple of years ago and they were adjusted which improved the lighting but now they have gone back to how they were. Jeet will send an email about this. Shirley said that it wasn't just her road that was badly lit but she had noticed several others like it.

Krystyna runs the I Love Croydon Facebook page which you are encouraged to take a look at.

Sid and Di Hamilos in Northampton Road who couldn't attend say "the only point we would like to mention under AOB is Parking. We lived and worked in Northampton Road for over 40years and we noticed that parking and traffic are getting worse. Now with the trams, people park for days in front of our house. Some obviously get the train to Gatwick airport and they are off on their holidays for few days. Also some just block our drive (recent photo to follow). We suggest restricted parking for say 2 hours, say between 10.00 am and 12.00. Or 12.00 and 2.00 pm. Parking will get worse in due course, as 3 of the houses in Northampton Road have planning permission to be converted into either 5 or 6 single flats." He sent a picture showing one of the offenders. White lines were suggested as an option and Richard Chatterjee will phone David Wakeling at the council and let us know if this is an option.

Mary advised a neighbour of hers who is in her 80s had a suspicious caller (white female age 20-30) claiming to be from Morrisons and needed to take a meter reading. (Morrison is the UK leading utility data service provider to the energy and water market as well as being a supermarket) Mary is going to follow this up.

Mark Dyne emailed and asked "Has there been much discussion about the traffic reps for the consultation? I'd like to put myself forward. I work in R&D in transport ticketing so might have a few different ideas to help make our area better." He didn't attend the meeting but we hope to take his offer forward. Jeet would like to work with him and David Jackman on traffic issues.

Stuart Smith mentioned an issue with trams not synchronising with trains at Elmers End so there is always a long wait. He visited the Tram shop who advised him to send an email but he received no reply. Jeet and Bob are taking this forward.

Claire mentioned again the problem with potholes in Shirley Road. Some of the worse ones have been done but traffic still needs to move into the middle of the road to avoid the potholes that remain. Sarah advised she continues to report the potholes and Richard advised that we should take photos of them.

Trinity School Sports Club no longer offer reductions for ASPRA members.

Gill confirmed with everyone that refreshments for the AGM would be similar to the previous year.

ASPRA are looking for a person to take on the role of Planning Officer and this will be mentioned at the AGM. Anyone interested in this role please contact secretary@theaspra.org.uk.

Dates of next meetings all at St Mildreds:

- Thursday 25 April 2019 ASPRA AGM in the Pavilion
- Wednesday 12 June 2019 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- Thursday 5 September 2019 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- Wednesday 5 February 2020 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall