



Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents Association

www.theaspra.org.uk

Minutes of ASPRA meeting on Wednesday 12 June 2019 8-10pm, in the Small Hall St Mildred's

1. Apologies

Claire Brialey, Jenny Crook, Shirley Vine, Sarah Hills, Sharon Collins, Jenny Tighe, Mary Alexander, Hilary Chelminski, Richard Chaterjee, Jeet Bains (Cllr. Gareth Streeter, Shirley North ward, will represent him)

2. Introductions

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising. Whilst they were agreed matters outstanding are about the use of white line on roads and we are waiting for David Wakeling to reply on this. Also, the issue at Elmers End where the trams depart before people coming off the trains can reach it. It was felt that whilst we cannot expect to change timetabling of either trams or trains some of the issue may be caused by stropky tram drivers.

3. Chairperson update

No report available.

Steve is looking into an alternative source of Christmas lighting and plans to spend more time on this next week.

Steve mentioned he had received a letter about "Nextdoor" and wondered if it was a scam. Maddie advised she had joined it and Colin informed him there is an article about it in the current magazine.

A house at the back of Steve's is being developed and when he complained to the council he found them unfriendly and unhelpful so he went round and shouted at the builders. He is passing on the details to Maddie who will look into this.

There is a traffic meeting on 27 June about the Elgin Road issues which just seem to going round in a circle however Steve is actively supporting the enforcement of speed and weight restrictions.

Steve was planning to book Ashburton Hall for ASPRA's 30th birthday celebrations but considered it expensive and we were not allowed to take our own food. Since the meeting St Mildreds have offered us their large hall with outside space at a special rate so this is now booked for Saturday 14 September.

4. ASPRA Vacancies

Projects Consultant

Planning Officer – the councillors advised us that this is becoming an increasingly important role as the Croydon Plan is being reviewed. It appeared that ASPRA had been left off the mailing list advising meetings regarding planning and since the meeting we have received an invite for Monday 17 June.

5. Magazine update

Report attached

The magazines arrived back at TD Print on Monday in all that rain and unfortunately the carrier did not do their job properly and 300 copies were lost having got very wet. They are being reprinted at the carrier's

expense. About half the magazines have been collected by the road reps and it is hoped the remainder will be picked up by the end of the weekend.

6. Adverts update

Report attached

Paul Clack who initially signed up for one issue has now agreed to all three. Colin's not sure if this is related to him buying a fence.....

Unfortunately, there is a small error on page 23 of the magazine and **the Folk and Blues Festival at Ruskin House is on 6 July** not 8 July.

Maddie commented that the magazine is brilliant and superb.

There was discussion about a different way of showing the magazine on our website. Suitable software has been identified and tested. It is hoped we can roll this out with the new website.

7. Website update

Bob is keeping the current website ticking over and Dave has been in contact with George about the new site.

Colin was concerned about keeping the history and the new website will have a pointer to the old one which currently has a hundred pages.

Maddie asked about where the website will be hosted and whilst this is still to be agreed by the committee options have been looked into.

There were also concerns about using WordPress as it is non-secure so will need to be careful who has access for updating.

8. Social Media update

Report attached

There is support both ways on Facebook with other local organisations sharing information. Nicola consults the committee if there is possible conflict. There was a rather confusing message sent from the council regarding local parks and Nicola was able to make sense of it and put it up on Facebook. The information is also going out in the next set of emails. Facebook is interactive and the more comments made the further up the tree the items goes giving more opportunities to view.

9. Finance update

No report available

Money has been moved from our current account to the savings account and ring-fenced for Christmas lights. We now have £10000 in place to support the next undertaking of a lighting contract which should give members of the committee some reassurance if they are required to underwrite the next contract.

TD Print's invoice was paid within two hours of receipt which is without doubt a record for ASPRA and just luck that all those involved were on line and able to do the necessary.

10. Projects update

As advised at the AGM Hilary is no longer covering this role and we are looking for a volunteer.

In the meantime Steve is looking into other options for Christmas lights so we have some comparisons when negotiating a new contract. Steve will also be looking into options for solar Christmas tree lighting for the tree on Blackhorse corner next to our notice board.

Decisions have already been made to reuse last year's poppies and soldiers so at our meeting on 5 September we can make the arrangements for displaying these.

Gill has been advised by the council that hanging baskets are the responsibility of highways lighting but they doubt that we will get permission. Croydon Council had to remove all of theirs years ago because the lamp columns aren't load tested for the extra weight of the baskets. Since the meeting John Algar has been in touch and advised that the new street lighting columns can take hanging basket brackets as long as the baskets are not over 20kg so we shall see what Skanska have to say.

11. Membership and Postmaster update

Report attached

There was some discussion on how to increase membership and Dave advised he had several enquiries from people living outside the area who wished to join up so they can receive copies of our excellent magazine. Thought will be given to a £1 cover charge and a supply given to some shopkeepers so that non-members could purchase a copy.

Emails currently going out include Spacehive, Use of our parks and Emission Zones.

12. Councillor's update

Maddie advised that Friends of Ashburton Park (FOAP) are fund raising for new equipment in the swing park and the council will match the funds raised. FOAP's target is £6000. Sadiq Khan needs to see that the community are behind this and you can go to <https://www.spacehive.com/ashburton-park-playground> to support it. The Easter Egg Hunt and the Big Lunch in the park raised £1500.00. The next event is a comedy night at Ashburton Hall which is provisionally booked for Friday 19 July and sometime after that there will be a dinner dance and then the Christmas Carnival again.

Blackhorse Lane bridge work is covered in the ASPRA magazine and Colin sang their praises for doing a fantastic job.

There is a community event on 20 June at Blackhorse bridge with Sarah Jones, an initiative set up in Jo Cox memory.

Krystyna has set up an event on 14 June: A Day in the Life of Addiscombe (she manages a Facebook page called I Love Addiscombe).

Gareth Streeter confirmed we are spot on with Steve's decision to support the monitoring of speed and weight restrictions whilst hoping for a community-led decision on the other issues which at the moment don't seem to be getting anywhere. Paul was surprised at the vitriol expressed at the meeting related to this at Ashburton Hall. Jonas asked what was before the one-way system and Steve advised that without the one-way system everything just worked fine. Lebanon Road residents are not happy at turning right round the trams.

Gareth advised that the Croydon Local Plan (CLP3) which was only adopted last year, has been reopened. Croydon now needs to find an additional 45000 homes in addition to those in the original plan. Residents Associations need to be involved and demonstrate with evidence the communities use of open and green spaces. Any evidence already collected is still valid and a Green Space Survey is being emailed out to members and has been put on Facebook.

We are already aware of the emissions-based survey and Gareth mentioned the concerns of the impact on the lower paid and the elderly who may not be able to afford to change their cars.

There is a planning permission request in to convert either 7 or 8 Northampton Road into four flats.

Jeet is pursuing spending on facilities for Bingham Rec (Addiscombe Recreation Ground).

Work on Blackhorse Bridge is very noisy but a friendly team.

Tom said that the council are reconsulting on the green spaces part of the Local Plan as the process had been found unsound by the inspector at the examination in public. At the same time, they are also reconsulting on the housing targets and policies in the Local Plan due to housing targets being increased by the Mayor since it was adopted.

He questioned whether there was any correlation between these two things being consulted on at the same time - i.e. does it hint at the council potentially allocating underused green spaces for more homes to meet targets? It might be a coincidence, but smells a bit funny.

Gareth replies that the Purley development would be a whole new community with school, GPs etc.

Phil asked about the arrival of Westfield. Maddie confirmed it is definitely happening but delays have been caused by the difficulties the retail sector are facing and readdressing the balance with leisure facilities.

Gareth said that some compulsory purchase orders have now run out. He described the situation as under review not under threat. Tom mentioned is it not down to the council what they do as they do not own the site. Bob said that as the intensification zone progresses any chance of changing is very slim.

Gareth mentioned the parking/emission will also effect businesses and Dave said that nothing seems to be joined up. Colworth, Ashling and some of Bingham Road have residents parking permits which could spread to other areas.

There followed a discussion about whether Addiscombe was safe from further conversions as they were family homes but it turns out that the government count large two and three bedroom flats as family homes. There must be a family unit within a conversion. Dave mentioned the need for inside and out child amenity space as he had seen in a Northampton Road house that has just started being converted. If a development exceeds nine units then it has to include affordable homes. Jane said that Croydon had not done enough to challenge our targets compared with neighbouring boroughs. Croydon has better transport links than its neighbours and therefore attracts more people. Dave is concerned regarding the pressure on service utilities and Gareth said this doesn't come up much, apart from the pressures on schools GPs etc. Adrien asked who the large blocks of flats in central Croydon were planned for but no clear answer was given.

Maddie mentioned she was aware of the cement down the drains in Northampton Road but always let her know of anything like this.

Gareth felt the sports development at Ashburton Playing Fields is a good scheme but in the wrong place. He assured everyone that access is Woodmere Avenue and Glenthorne Road area will not be affected.

13. Jumble Trail update

Lyn sent an update which the Secretary did not pick up until after the meeting. Jumble Trail leaflets have been printed by LMB and will be delivered to all households in July. We would be pleased if road reps could deliver in their roads.

14. Addiscombe Recreation Ground update

A disappointing turnout on Saturday 1 June. It would appear that our efforts to sort dates for the whole summer is not helping. There was just Lyn for the first hour and a half. Gill and Dave join her from 11ish and Hillary arrived about 12. No donations of plants but Dave was able to fit a new water butt.

All in all, a productive morning in the heat but would have been good to have had more volunteers!

We could really do with more volunteers and how ever little time you have to spare it all helps.

We have applied to be part of the Big Green London Map Project. This is so that our park can be included on the map and that there is an appropriate contact (secretary@theaspra.org.uk) to ensure information held about the park is up to date.

15. Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Colin bought along an NHW road sign and referred us to the talk given at the AGM. The role has changed from his involvement some 30 years ago when there was no internet or social media. Colin checked out Compare the Market.com (a good one to use as they have meerkats the same as NHW logo) and this advises that there may be a reduction in your premium if you are an NHW member which amounts to a 5% discount. Do not assume all our roads are in a NHW scheme. Tick the wrong box and you will have a problem when making a claim. Phil has put an article in the magazine related to NHW.

16. AOB

Maddie said that Shirley Park Road had their first Big Lunch and it was wonderful.

Shirley Vine was unable to attend but would like an update on the white van EX 56 .???? as it is still parked at the top of Compton Road and has been there at least six months. At the AGM Steve said he would report it however when he looked into it the van is taxed and has an MOT so is legal and nothing can be done about it.

Cherry Trees for Croydon that had been mentioned in an earlier meeting Maddie is looking into this for us.

Sid Hamilos mentioned all the extra cars coming into the area with flat conversions etc. and would like parking bays to be considered but generally this was not considered a good idea. Cheyne Walk considered doing this but decided against it. Dave mentioned that he had been made aware of parking problems caused by builders when carrying out work in the area and asked that neighbours and their builders be considerate to others.

Dates of next meetings all at St Mildred's:

- Thursday 5 September 2019 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- Wednesday 5 February 2020 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- Wednesday 22 April 2020 ASPRA AGM in the Pavilion
- Wednesday 3 June 2020 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall