Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER - Autumn 2006



The Lawdon Estate Forty Years On

Construction of the estate that straddles Orchard Way began in 1967 and the first residents arrived 1968. The development changed the rural nature of Monks Orchard and contains over 500 high-density dwellings. Built around a number of courts that provide a peaceful urban haven. Subsequent to completion the estate won awards for its futuristic design and it still retains a modern appearance.

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The Monks Orchard Residents' Association was founded in 1923, and represents 2,500 residents.

Chairman's Comment

The task of keeping residents informed of issues that affect them always runs the risk of producing a newsletter filled with bad tidings but these days there is little good news for those attempting to balance the household budget The new Council administration has stated that it aims to hold the annual increase in Council Tax to 4% which must be good news when compared with the massive increases in past years. The pledge is welcome but may prove difficult to keep when faced with the rocketing cost of public pensions, the need to find housing and education for immigrants to the borough and the massive backlog of unpaid Council taxes. In addition to the tax burden imposed by the Council there are also the increasing demands of the Mayor of London, the need to fund the expansion in local policing and the high cost of the Olympic Games. Consumers also have to deal with dramatic increases in the price of gas, electricity and water. It is not hard to appreciate that the finances of local Council Tax payers, especially those on fixed or low incomes are coming under constant threat.

In June Councillor Mike Fisher, Leader of the Council wrote to MORA to introduce the new administration and its commitment to work closely with community groups and residents' associations across the borough. Whilst MORA is non-political this provided an opportunity to bring to the attention of the new administration, some of the concerns of the membership.

The letters are reproduced in full as follows:

An Open letter from the Chairman to the Leader of the Council Dear Councillor Fisher,

Thank you for the letter of introduction dated 23rd June, which has been discussed by the MORA Executive Committee. We would like to congratulate you on assuming the position of Leader of the Council. This association has always enjoyed a good working relationship with its elected representatives and it is pleasing to note that you wish this to continue and that you will support us on the issues that impact adversely on the residents of Monks Orchard.

The elected representatives are invited to our Annual General Meeting to report back and this forum offers an ideal opportunity to set out the new administrations vision for the years ahead.

The Executive Committee has identified a number of issues that we hope will receive early attention.

Members of this association are aware that there is an increasing demand for housing and all the greener boroughs are under pressure to build more homes. We are concerned by contentious planning proposals for the construction of high-density tall buildings in areas lined with semi-detached houses and bungalows.

The design, layout and future appearance of Monks Orchard is being determined by individual developers that want to erect as many homes as possible on back land garden sites or sites containing a single dwelling. There appears to be no overall strategic plan or long-term view regarding housing expansion that is being allowed to take place piecemeal with little consideration of the overall affect on the community, infrastructure or long-term sustainability.

We expect the new administration to honour your election pledges and to do all that is possible to resist planning proposals that adversely impact on the character of local residential area.

This association supports the new administrations campaign to obtain a better deal for Croydon that has been deprived whilst local Government funding is directed to other parts of the country. A more equitable method of funding could result in a reduction in the inflation busting rises in Council tax bills but there are alternative ways in which this could be achieved. The previous administration failed to collect £8.2 million outstanding Council tax during the last financial year and there is a reported £134 million outstanding from previous years. There are responsible residents that have to economise on food and heating to pay this ever-increasing tax burden whilst others seem to be able get away without paying. It would be interesting to know what action will be taken to overcome this unfairness in the system?

Members of MORA continue to express dissatisfaction with the service provided by the Council. Residents and Councillors can spend many hours on the telephone in an attempt to get information. The staff manning the call centre is polite and helpful but on being transferred to departments, calls remain unanswered and pledges to return calls are not kept. Most of the contacts made by MORA are with the Planning and Transportation Department that is riddled with errors. Carefully compiled comments on planning proposals have been missing when the decisions were made, for example the decision on 79 Gladeside. Incorrect information is often sent to residents and this association has to deal with the aftermath. A significant issue that needs to be addressed is the lack of any procedures to deal with planning objections sent via the Internet. The internet automatically provides acknowledgement of receipt - however, if the received emails and attachments are not processed or considered by the planning officers, this method of communication is totally flawed as was shown by two recent planning objections sent by MORA.

Council taxpayers deserve better and it is hoped that these ongoing problems will receive attention.

Shopping parades have been subject to great change and traditional businesses have almost disappeared to be replaced by hot food takeaways. The Council has failed to recognise the impact of this change on the residents living in the close vicinity. Unpleasant smells, grease laden odours and acrid

fumes from these establishments pervade the local atmosphere and enter windows and gardens for up to twelve hours or more each day. Some of our members have been forced to leave their homes and move elsewhere. The Council does little to control the number of hot food outlets, it ignores objections from residents, no assessment is made of the potential adverse impact on the local air quality and it fails to impose controls to ensure that residents do not suffer discomfort. It would be interesting to know what the new administration intends to do to tackle this problem.

MORA would like your permission to publish this open letter and your response in the autumn issue of our newsletter.

Yours sincerely
Robert. C. Akers
Chairman
On behalf of the Executive Committee

Letter of Response from Leader of the Council:

Dear Mr Akers

A Fair Deal for Croydon

Thank you for your letter of 23rd July and thank you also for your kind comments regarding my appointment as Leader of Croydon Council.

My administration is keen to foster good working relations with community associations such as the Monks Orchard Residents' Association and I am grateful for the time you've taken to bring my attention to the matters mentioned in your letter – my responses to which are set out below.

Can I start by saying that the issues you raise are areas that are priorities for us. Many of the points you make are featured as areas for improvement in our new Performance and Improvement Plan for the forthcoming year viewable on the Croydon's website (http://www.crovdon.gov.uk/candd/464174/464241/corDorateservices/457412/458840/458862-doc).

This is a statutory document which the Council must publish annually and you'll see that for our first Improvement Plan two of the five new priorities cover the areas that you have highlighted as of concern to your Association, namely.

Retaining Croydon's Character- ensuring sensitive development which meets local needs

The overall strategy for development in Croydon is contained in the recently adopted Croydon Replacement Unitary Development Plan - The Croydon Plan (published on the Council's website at www.crovdon.gov.uk/environment/dcande/UDP/caudp).

It is true that there is strong regional demand for more housing and as a local authority we must reflect this in our plans for Croydon by making provision for additional homes. We want to do this is by maximising the re-use of previously developed land - in effect by encouraging new housing

development within existing residential areas, rather than losing green and open spaces. There is always a balance to be struck, however, so we have set in train policies to ensure that new housing doesn't conflict with the aim of respecting the character of residential areas. We are determined to employ these policies to prevent inappropriate development.

The Croydon Plan also sets out the Council's intentions to protect and enhance shopping areas in the borough, encouraging a good mix of businesses that meet local needs. With regard to take-away establishments our shopping policies aim to limit their concentration and each application will be considered on its merits to ensure that the amenities of local residents are not harmed in the process. Croydon's Specialist Pollution Team officers provide advice to planning officers when applications are received. It is appreciated, however, that despite requiring premises to install modern extractors, smells can still emanate from the premises. Where the Council is notified about this, the pollution enforcement team can be asked to investigate to check whether the appropriate extraction equipment has been installed. It is regrettable but there are always a few cases where proprietors have taken on board everything the Council has asked done and in doing so are able to demonstrate that they have taken "best practical means", in which case the Council is unable legally to take any further enforcement action.

Value for money - services at an affordable council tax

My new administration takes offering council tax payers value for money very, very seriously. As a consequence we are asserting considerable pressure on council tax collection because like your membership, we also believe that it is unfair that non-payers should get away without paying their council tax bills. We also intend to be rigorous in our pursuit of old debts by using tougher measures like employing more bailiffs to pursue debtors.

Coupled with this we are vigorously pursuing a Fair Deal for Croydon. What has become rapidly apparent to me since our taking control of the Council is that Croydon's poor financial settlement from Government makes it very difficult to make the improvements that local people are entitled to expect. Why should it be that Croydon residents always face reductions in services when elsewhere - including elsewhere in London - this is not the case? That's why we're keen to get as much support as we can for the Fair Deal campaign and the support of the Monks Orchard Residents' Association is very much welcomed. I would particularly urge your members to show their support by signing the petition - either online at http://www.croydon.gov.uk/candd/communication/fairdeal or by using the form in the last issue of Croydon Reports.

We are also mindful of the need to make sure that the Council's expenditure is kept in check so that we can keep council tax increases as low as possible whilst at the same time providing good quality services to residents. I can understand your frustrations in trying to reach the right people in the Council. That is why we are making it a priority to streamline the organization and

instill a greater customer service ethos throughout the Council. With regard to your specific comments about the Planning and Transportation Department and the process for lodging objections, I have raised this with the appropriate officers. I understand that the difficulties you experienced in using the website was unusual but nevertheless please accept my apologies for that. I have also instructed officers to re-check the system to make sure that this cannot happen again. In the meantime, I can confirm that, in the case to which you refer, your written comments were reported in full to Committee Members as an addendum.

Finally can I say again that I very much welcome your comments as I feel that my administration's priority to "Create a better future for Croydon" will be all the more successful with the support and participation of as many residents as possible. I want this Council to work in an open and approachable way and with that in mind I am happy for you to publish this letter in your Autumn Newsletter.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me. Yours sincerely Cllr Mike Fisher Leader of Croydon Council

Planning News

Greater pressure is being applied on Local Authorities to increase the supply of houses in an attempt to address the growing shortage and give first time buyers an opportunity



to join the housing ladder. The pressure is more intense in London because it is applied by Government Ministers, supported by the Mayor who has been given enhanced powers over planning. Furthermore, there are proposals to penalise Councils that refuse to increase their rate of house building to meet Government targets. Local Councillors do their best to resist the more contentious planning proposals but if an application is refused, developers are confident that, on appeal, the decision is likely to be reversed. As the procedure grows more biased against the objector, MORA's task of protecting the area from inappropriate, unwanted and ill-considered proposals becomes even more difficult. Responding to the challenge, the Executive Committee has found it necessary to debate and agree a new planning strategy that will allow us to concentrate energy and resources on the more contentious planning submissions that would adversely impact on the community, the infrastructure and destroy the character of the area.

It has to be recognised that Monks Orchard has been subject to housing development since the beginning of the twentieth century and nowadays the replacement of life expired properties occupying large sites with good quality, well designed, two or three storey dwellings is considered as a natural

progression by planners and developers. However professional MORA is at compiling convincing objections to such development proposals, it is unlikely to gain sympathy or support from local or national government. No area can be immune from housing development but people do not welcome change and the natural response is to enlist support in order to resist all development proposals. However, if a developer has gained ownership of a piece of land it has to be assumed that it will be built on and the ensuing planning submission needs to be carefully examined. The dilemma frequently facing MORA is whether or not to support the local residents and object to a proposal that might be for the erection of a well-designed development of high quality. The alternative has to be taken into account because there is always the risk that the developer will submit another application that could be more controversial, for example a high density block of apartments specifically aimed to meet the need for low cost housing that would be almost impossible to successfully challenge.

MORA also runs the danger of losing influence if almost every development proposal is opposed especially if there are no identifiable or strong planning reasons for permission not being granted. It has been necessary to decide how to make best use of the limited time and resources available to the Only one member of the Executive Committee deals with planning issues and a detailed and accurate objection to a planning proposal takes anything from two to six days to complete, often within a limited time frame. The plans and drawings have to be obtained, a visit made to the site, measurements checked, local residents consulted, photographs taken of the site and surroundings and national and local planning documents consulted. This does not include dealing with correspondence and calls from those living close to the site of the development. The number of planning applications continues to increase and this has resulted in two or more objections being worked on simultaneously. There is tendency for residents to express their anger and concerns coupled with a demand that MORA takes action that will require our Planning Officer to spend hours working to protect their interests. It is more effective and reasonable if residents wanting to resist an inappropriate planning development, unite and form a group or team to agree a common approach, share the work in order to fully address the planning issues, enlist the support of the elected representatives and others with knowledge of the planning system. Local residents have a clear advantage because they know more about their area than the planning officers. It is important to be ready and organised for a prolonged campaign because developers can submit numerous applications for the same site and each has to be examined and opposed. Teams of residents working together to resist a threat to their homes and surroundings has proved successful and they have been able to prevent or modify a number of recent applications based on greed rather than for the good of the local community. Such activities create neighbourliness and develop good community spirit.

MORA will continue to provide advice and support to members troubled by development proposals that impact on their surroundings. Guidance will be given on how to oppose a planning application and how to compile effective objections that clearly point out the planning issues and the inappropriateness of the proposals. In future MORA will not routinely compile and submit a formal objection because this will result in the application being determined not by the planning officers but by the Planning Committee and this is not guaranteed to bring about the desired result.

MORA would have more success in protecting the character of the area if more help was forthcoming from members. Those with a knowledge or interest in planning matters would receive a warm and grateful welcome from the over-stretched Executive Committee.

Changes to Planning Applications

Significant changes to planning applications came into affect in August 2006. New national legislation means that most new planning applications received on or after August 10th will need to be accompanied by a Design and Access Statement. These changes apply to all planning applications except those that are for a change of use only or are for household developments. MORA has for some time been troubled by the lack information provided by applicants seeking outline planning permission and the poor standard of the site drawings provided. The absence of clear and detailed information makes it difficult to appraise the likely impact of development proposals and this is important because once outline planning permission is obtained it is usually too late to make worthwhile objections when an application is made for full planning permission.

In future, all planning applications will require the submission of a design and access statement as follows:

- The design process explain the design principles and concepts.
 Amount of development how much will be built on site, number of units/floor space, how the development complies with the principles of sustainability and energy conservation.
 • Use what buildings and spaces will be used for.
- Layout how the buildings, private/public spaces are to be arranged on site and their relationship. Should also demonstrate how crime prevention measures have been considered in the design.
- Scale how big the buildings and spaces will be in terms of their height/ width /length.
- Appearance details of materials/architectural details.
- Landscaping treatment of private and public spaces with hard and soft landscaping and their maintenance.
- Definition for the purpose of the statement, access relates to the development and does not extend to internal aspects of individual buildings. It should describe how equal and convenient

- access is provided to building spaces and the public transport network.
- Access for emergency services should be explained where relevant.

Changes to Protocol of Planning Committee

In future, for an application to be determined by the committee, it will have to be opposed by the receipt of material planning considerations from 12 or more persons, or from a recognised residents' association, or by way of a petition containing 20 or more signatures, or a referral from a Member of the Council. In the past only 6 letters of consideration were required for an application to be decided at committee level rather than the planning officers.

Home Information Packs Update

The February issue of this newsletter carried a report on the introduction of Home Information Packs (HIPS) that will become compulsory in England and Wales from June 2007. HIPS sometimes described as seller's packs were intended to provide prospective buyers with all the basic information they need about

prospective buyers with all the basic information they need about a property before they buy.

When putting the house onto the market, the seller or the estate agent would, by law, have to provide a HIP, containing all kinds of prescribed information, such as title, easements and rights of way, results of searches, planning, warranties, service charges, home condition survey, fixtures and fittings, energy efficiency, water, gas, electricity details; you name it, it has to be there. Thus the buyer would have all the necessary information from the start and the deal can go through promptly and satisfactorily for all concerned. The seller will have to pay for the HIP to the tune of an estimated £750 - £1500 and more if it is out of date and needs revision.

Subsequent to the announcement of the proposed introduction, HIPs have come under attack from a number of sources. The Building Societies Association (BSA) and the Council for Mortgage Lenders (CML) have attacked the proposal. They stressed that not many Building Societies and sensible buyers will rely on a standardised home condition report produced by the vendor and would commission their own structural survey thus adding to the cost. Warnings were given that there would be a rush of buyers wishing to complete purchases before the deadline, followed by a slump in the property market afterwards. There was also pressure from mortgage lenders, estate agents and surveyors that the industry would not be ready in time and that the delays and costs of compiling a HIP could deter sellers. Responding to pressure the Government has retreated from plans to force sellers rather than buyers to pay for a survey when selling their home and HIP's would no longer have to contain a home condition report. Only one part of the home condition report remains compulsory and that is the property's energy performance certificate with information of the property's energy efficiency similar to the ratings on domestic appliances. Subsequent to the announcement of this Government "U" turn there is now indecision in the property market about how to proceed. There is uncertainty about who will take the responsibility for providing vendors with approved energy performance certificates?

Fees of Membership

At last years Annual General Meeting the membership unanimously gave the Executive Committee the necessary approval to review and, if necessary, to increase the fees of membership. It was stressed that fees have remained unchanged for over thirteen years and do not fully cover the increasing production costs of the newsletter. The Executive Committee was very reluctant to increase the fees and, as a consequence, they remain unchanged for the year 2006. A major expense in the running of MORA is the production of the quarterly newsletter and in order to alleviate the rising cost an 'Handy Adverts' section has been introduced in which local businesses pay to advertise their services.

Subsequent to discussion with Area Managers, Road Stewards and members, the Executive Committee came to the conclusion that if we are to continue representing the membership and producing regular newsletters there is no alternative than to increase membership fees for the year 2007. The opportunity has also been taken to simplify the fee structure and as from January 2007 the membership fee will apply to household's, not individual members. This should help resolve confusion for members and make it easier for those that collect the fees.

The Executive Committee has therefore decided to increase membership fees as from January 2007 and the revised membership fees will be as follows:

Membership for a Household £4.00, pa Concessionary rate for Senior Citizens £2.00 pa

As mentioned at the last Annual General Meeting, the additional income will be used to protect the operational costs of MORA and to maintain and possibly improve the MORA fighting fund because we never know when it may be necessary to seek and use legal help to protect the local community and this could be highly expensive. The extra finance will also provide greater flexibility to financially help worthy causes that offer benefits to the local community.

It should be mentioned that the association is managed by volunteers that freely devote their time and efforts for the benefit of the local community. It is hoped that those members that have generously made donations to the work of the association along with their fees of membership will continue to do so. Road Stewards and Area Managers will be reminded of the changes before collecting for the year commencing January 2007.

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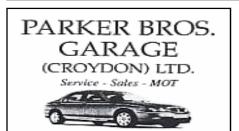
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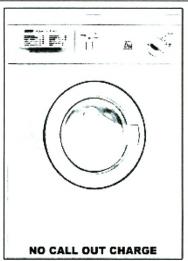
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A Cause for Concern

There is increasing concern about the cost of the Olympic Games and the unfair levy of the additional yearly £20.00 Council Tax imposed on all London householders. The levy was imposed without consultation and will be payable for 10 or more years. The unfairness of the extra charge was raised at the Annual General Meeting in March and it was emphasised that MORA is not opposed to the Olympic Games, only the unfair method used to fund the massive cost of the event. It has been frequently voiced by Cabinet Ministers and Lord Coe that the games will be of benefit of all areas of the United Kingdom but London Council Tax payers are the only section of the U.K. population of 56 million to have a special Olympic tax imposed on them. Businesses such as shops and hotels will undoubtedly benefit greatly from the influx of visitors but only the domestic taxpayers will have to shoulder the financial burden.

What should concern all London taxpayers is what happens if the cost of staging the London Olympic overruns. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sports, Tessa Jowell when reporting to her committee in October 2005 said that Council Taxpayers in the capital would be forced to pay more than expected if the cost of staging the games overruns. Asked to protect Londoners by placing a 'cap' on the amount of losses Londoners could fined themselves stuck with Tessa replied "What I cannot say is that there will not be any guarantee there will be a 'cap' The government has confirmed that there will be a daily vigilance on monitoring costs and taking all reasonable steps available to contain these costs. It is to be hoped that this will be better than the manner in which the costs of 'The Dome', the Millennium Bridge and the Scottish Parliament Building were just allowed to run out of control. Only one year after winning the 2012 Olympic bid the cost is set to rise by possibly as much as £2 billion after a radical reappraisal of the facilities.

One of the hidden costs of staging the Olympic Games is that of security and with the general state of unrest in the world today this will not come cheap and London Council Taxpayers will also meet this cost. The security cost of the Athens Olympics was more that £850 million and averaged around £75,000 for protecting each individual participating athlete. There is also concern about the additional cost of improving water and sewerage services required for the Olympics. Increases to domestic customers have already been announced to improve water and sewerage services over the next five years and these can be expected to increase further if the proposal to extend London's main ring to the east of the city is approved.

Those incensed by the deal made by the elected Government and the Mayor of London whereby residents of London fund 25 per cent of the Olympic cost with the other 75 per cent coming from the lottery and who feel this unfair levy has been dictatorially imposed without consultation may wish to express their disgust. Fortunately there is a way in which this can be done. The

Bexley Pensioners Forum, neither a rich or vast organisation, is leading a campaign to get the Londoners only Olympic Tax cancelled and the campaign is successfully attracting the support of taxpayers in all the London boroughs. The campaign is now one for all Londoners even those not yet old enough to pay the Olympic Tax but will be old enough to help pay for any Olympic debts by 2012 (30 years for the Montreal Games 1974 – 2004). More information can be obtained from the website www.notjustlondon.com from which details can be obtained about how to add your name to a petition. Many thousands of signatures have already been collected.

Staying Healthy

People find it difficult to admit to themselves that they are getting on in years, have become frail and are losing physical strength and, as

a consequence, are more vulnerable to falls and minor accidents. People are certainly living longer and some seem to have endless strength and energy but the ageing process cannot be stemmed forever. It is only when the statistics are examined that a mature person might become concerned about their well-being and the potential dangers that are easy to ignore. Following an injury and period of recuperation life is seldom quite the same.

The stark facts are these; more accidents occur in the home than anywhere else, falls account for 43% of accidental injuries; one third of people over 54 will fall at least once a year. In Croydon approximately 43,000 people are aged over 65 and about 2,400 of these attended Accident and Emergency (A&E) at Mayday Hospital in 2004 as a result of a fall. One in nine were admitted to hospital with a broken hip. Where do most of the falls occur? 60% take place on stairs, 15% from a chair or bed, and 15% tripping over something such as a rug or mat. (Figures supplied by Primary Care Trust)



How can a person avoid slips, trips, broken hips and wrists? There are a few preliminary steps that can be taken to reduce the risks. Vision changes with the passing of the years so have your eyes tested regularly. Especially important if you still drive

a car. Inform your Doctor if your medication is making you feel dizzy. Keep muscles strong and improve balance by taking some form of regular exercise. Croydon Healthy Living Centres Network offers much to older people and you can contact Jo Guest, Network Co-ordinator on for information on courses and swimming sessions set aside specifically for older people.

It is also sensible to tackle the danger areas and improve safety in the home environment. Increase illumination by putting 100-watt lights bulbs in the kitchen and stair landings so they are brightly lit. Use non-slip mats under rugs in the kitchen, stair landings and inside and next to the bath. Fit handrails by the toilet and bath, also on the stairs. Repair or remove frayed

edges from carpets to make them safer to walk on. Finally, remove the casters from furniture that you hold or lean on. Age Concern Croydon have an excellent range of services available e.g. Nail Clipping; Domicillary Care; Small Repairs; Home Security and Accident Prevention and can be contacted on 020 8680 5450.

Advice is also available from Help the Aged on 0845 605 2535 on further steps that should be taken in order to avoid injuries to yourself and others.

Older Persons Network

become invisible, socially excluded and feel that they have little influence on the things that shape their daily lives. This is curious because older people are important consumers that are growing in numbers and have a wealth of experience to offer. Awareness of the growing problem of age isolation resulted in the establishment of the Croydon Older Persons Network (OPeN) that is an independent, non-political network of older people that is run by older people.

Older residents often form the opinion that they have somehow

The aim of the network is to bring together older people living in the borough to discuss the issues that matter to them and to influence the planning and delivery of local services. Since the launch in March 2001, the OPeN membership has grown and members are keen for the good work to continue to ensure that the voice of the people is heard and that it is influential, to challenge discrimination and to promote a positive image of older age. OPeN has links with Better Government for Older People and the Greater London Forum for Older People as well as complementing the work of other local organisations (such as Age Concern Croydon, Croydon Peoples Housing Association). Meetings are held quarterly at the Town Hall. For more details contact Anne Fellows telephone or Email: anne.fellows@cvalive.org.uk.

Position Vacant

MORA is in need of an honorary secretary. This is an major role which would suit someone who has an interest in the local community and has some basic experience of secretarial work. Ideally, they would be familiar with information technology and own or have access to a computer with internet and email facilities. The honorary secretary is not a clerical dogsbody but a valued member of the Executive Committee with the same speaking and voting rights as everybody else. They would be a the point of contact with members. The skills required are those possessed by most of our members and the duties need only occupy a few hours each week. The work involved is highly important and surely there must be a local resident willing to do this job.

Planning Update

06/02854/P

Outline planning permission



82-84 Orchard Way

Demolition of existing buildings; erection of 4 three bedroom detached houses and 4 semi detached houses; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Permission Refused

04 / 09 / 2006

06/03077/P

Outline planning permission

82-84 Orchard Way

Demolition of existing buildings; erection of 3 three bedroom detached houses, 4 three bedroom semi detached houses and 1 three bedroom detached bungalow; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Permission Refused

06 / 09 / 2006

06/03016/P

Outline planning permission

26-28 Tower View

Demolition of existing buildings; erection of a terrace of 5 three bedroom houses fronting onto Edgewood Green; formation of vehicular accesses and provision of associated parking.

This case has not yet been decided.

06/02968/P

Full planning permission

85 Gladeside

Demolition of existing building; erection of 2 three bedroom semi detached houses and 2 detached three bedroom chalet bungalows and 1 detached chalet bungalow with integral garage; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking. case has not yet been decided.

06/00904/P

Outline Planning Permission

114 Orchard Way

Demolition of existing building; erection of two/three storey building comprising 6 two bedroom and 7 one bedroom flats; alterations to vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Planning Control Committee:

Referred for site visit 26/05/2006:

Permission Refused

27 / 07 / 2006

06/02145/P

Full planning permission

9 Woodmere Gardens, Croydon, CR0 7PL

Demolition of existing buildings; erection of 2 detached four bedroom houses with attached garages; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Permission Refused

19 / 07 / 2006

06/01907/P

Full planning permission

3 Lorne Avenue

Erection of detached three bedroom house at side: formation of vehicular

access and provision of associated parking.

Permission Refused 22/06/2006

06/01880/P

Outline Planning Permission

79 Orchard Avenue

Demolition of existing buildings; erection of 1 detached three bedroom house, 1 detached five bedroom house and a pair of two storey four bedroom semi detached houses with accommodation in roofspace; formation of vehicular access onto High Trees and provision of associated parking.

Permission Refused

03 / 07 / 2006

Outstanding Applications

06/01595/P

Full Planning Permission

95 Tower View, Croydon, CR0 7PZ

Erection of detached one bedroom bungalow; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

MORA Action:

None

Application Withdrawn

01 / 06 / 2006

06/01718/P

Full Planning Permission

85 Orchard Avenue, Croydon, CR0 7NF

Demolition of existing building; erection of a pair of two storey four bedroom semi detached houses with accommodation in roofspace; formation of vehicular accesses and provision of associated parking.

MORA Action:

None

Application Withdrawn

01 / 06 / 2006

06/02585/P

Full planning permission

85 Orchard Avenue, Croydon, CR0 7NF

Demolition of existing building; erection of 2 detached two storey four bedroom houses with accommodation in roof-space; formation of vehicular accesses and provision of associated parking.

Note: The proposal is similar to the withdrawn application 06/01718/P of 28/04/2006 and similar to part of the approved application 04/01433/P of 24/11/2004 for 2 High Trees and 79-85 Orchard Avenue. The developer seems to be taking each parcel of land in turn.

Permission Granted 31 / 08 / 2006

06/00792/P

Full Planning Permission

39 Orchard Way, Croydon, CR0 7NP

Demolition of existing building; erection of 2 detached four bedroom houses and provision of associated parking.

Permission Refused 21/07/2006

This information was correct at the time of going to press. For further updates check our website at: www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk

Crime Alerts

Burglary Alert

There has been a large increase in smashed windows recently and a Neighbourhood Watch member has advised caution when leaving out your green waste for collection by the Council. Apparently, the Council asks you to leave a stone, brick or other heavy object to be placed on the empty sack after collection. These items can then be used to smash windows nearby. At this time of year it is also useful to check the security of your garden sheds and greenhouses, etc. as they also contain tools which can be used to break into properties.

Delivery Scam

The Trading Standards Office have brought the following scam to the attention of Devon CC: A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call. If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655 or ICTIS (the premium rate service regulator) www.isctis.org.uk. This is a genuine scam. This service is under investigation by ICSTIS. Please be aware of this scam and forward this information to as many people as possible.

Graffiti Removal Reporting

Anyone who wants to report graffiti to Croydon Council and arrange for its removal should phone 020 8726 6200. If you have any information on the culprits please call Mark Pinnock on 020 8726 6000 ext 47080. You can also email the Council direct on graffiti@croydon.gov.uk.

Safer Neighbourhoods

Visit the Safer Neighbourhoods website for more information about local policing at http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods.

Shirley Sector

Sgt. Andy O'Donnell P.C. Nicola Duffy

P.C.S.O Chris Catling

P.C.S.O Charlotte McGuinness

P.C.S.O Dan Ashby

Tel: 0208 721 2469

Ashburton Sector

Sgt. Chris Watson P.C. Glyn Shepherd

P.C.S.O Joanna Barnard

P.C.S.O Simon McCarthy

Tel: 0208 721 2474

Pharmacy Service

I want to cover two aspects of pharmacy service in this month's issue which I hope are of interest to residents. The first involves the all important buzz word within the NHS – access.

Many customers want to know how they can access a prescription service or emergency medicine supplies after hours and on bank holidays. The vast majority of pharmacies close between 6 and 7pm on weekdays and it is common to see many closed on Saturday afternoons. Pharmacies tend to mirror shopping habits and GP surgery times with considerable overlap. My own pharmacy is open for 52 hours each week but I have to acknowledge that this does not meet emergency needs at all times of the night and early morning.

An on-call duty pharmacy service is available after 8pm and until 8am 365 days a year for all Croydon residents. To access this service, you need to call NHS Direct (0845 46 47) and they will contact the duty pharmacist on his or her mobile for you to have a direct contact. It is normal to screen calls in order to cascade and triage patients' requirements in the right direction and to the appropriate healthcare professional. So far, the workload has not been onerous for the pharmacists involved but it is a valuable safety net for those in need of emergency medication. The on call duty doctor based at Croydoc within Mayday hospital also has access to the duty pharmacy service should the need arise.

Residents should also be reminded that there is a pharmacy within Sainsbury's store on the Purley Way (opposite PC World) that remains open until 11pm weekdays and until 4pm on Sundays. This store must keep to these strict opening hours in order to keep the pharmacy contract under their terms of service with the NHS so if any customer turns up to find that the pharmacy is temporarily closed for some reason, then it would be helpful to let us know about that closure.

My second topic is one that has been in the public eye for some while – obesity. We recently started a weight management service at the pharmacy in response to customer demand. We are currently providing just more than medicines, advice and prescriptions but most additional services are something that remains outside of the

NHS at this present time. Hopefully in the future, we will be commissioned by the local Primary Care Trust to provide many more services free of charge but at the moment, the patient picks up the small costs involved. Most people are aware of the dangers of smoking and becoming overweight. As a general rule, a Body Mass Index calculation of more than 30 is classified as obese. This figure is a measured relationship between height and weight but is not applicable to body builders and some athletes who depend on muscle development e.g. rugby players. As an example, a man who is not a competitive sportsman and weighs 100kilos at a height of 5 foot 9 inches will have a BMI of 31. This person will need to do something about his weight if he wishes to lead a long healthy life into old age. This man will risk the onset of diabetes, elevated blood pressure and other complications such a joint pain as he grows older. Losing weight confers so many advantages to the individual that they are too numerous to list here. One of the common themes that

customers continually report to me when they are losing weight is the amount of extra energy they acquire. The lethargy vanishes; they can cycle to West Wickham without feeling any breathlessness and can usually last until 9pm before starting to feeling tired.

We don't try to push people into being slimmer of the year because, like Jamie Oliver, we believe diets are fattening. We like to see slow but steady weight loss and a gradual change in the person's lifestyle and eating habits. We simply provide some useful menu guides and ideas for meals but these do not constitute "slimming meals" or any form of prepared food. We measure weight, BMI and blood pressure at every session and talk through the experiences of the past week. We advocate more "activity" not exercise; a moderate pace of walking through Shirley Hills should be a pleasure not a task and should leave anyone feeling better than when they started out. In our opinion, the view from the top of the hill in Shirley by the Chinese restaurant on a clear day is worth more than any TV programme. All our weight losers are handled on a one-to-one session and we never engage in group activity – we believe this should be personal and confidential.

This kind of health promotion and public health emphasis is an intrinsic part of the new culture within pharmacy – we need to keep people out of hospital and away from the surgeon's knife. So much can be prevented and however nicely designed or private accommodation any hospital can provide, the comfort is not a patch on one's own home. The message should always be – stay away!

Andrew McCoig

McCoig Pharmacy, 143 Wickham Road, Shirley, CR0 8TE.

Note: Andrew McCoig also authored the health article in the previous edition of the MORA Newsletter and we thank him for his contribution.

Monks Orchard Townswomen's Guild

Monks Orchard Townswomen's Guild meets on the first Friday of every month at St. George's Hall, Elstan Way, Shirley. Various speakers are invited to our meetings and their very interesting talks include such subjects as 'Cooking for the Royals', 'Tudor London', 'Pub Signs and their stories', 'PAT' Dogs'. As well as these monthly meetings active sub-sections, such as arts and crafts, gardening, scrabble, play-reading, swimming and walking are participated in. These activities enable members to develop their skills and interests as well as providing fun and enjoyment. An annual charity quiz, with a fish and chip supper, is another event enjoyed and is always well attended. Friendship and support when needed are other attributes of the Guild.

Importantly, the Guild supports, by fund-raising, a local charity every year. This year's chosen charity is a local one, 'Magpie', which teaches disabled children through dance and expression. Hopefully, this article has given an insight into the workings of Monks Orchard Townswomen's Guild. We look

forward to welcoming new members to enable new ideas to be brought to the Guild. For further information contact the Chairman, Mrs. Mary Walls, on

Charity Christmas Card Sale

Will be held on Saturday 14th October at Shirley Methodist Church Hall, Eldon Ave. from 10.00am to 1.00pm. A selection of quality cards, calendars and seasonal gifts will be on sale. Refreshments average of the cards are selected to the cards of the cards are selected to the cards of the ca

cards, calendars and seasonal gifts will be on sale. Refreshments available. Please book this date and bring a friend. The Charities enjoy coming to Shirley and look forward to your support once again. Last year sales were over £2,600. Please come and make it another memorable day again.

Hall Grange 'Autumn Coffee Morning'

The Hall Grange 'Autumn Coffee Morning' will be held at Hall Grange, Shirley Church Road, on Saturday 21st October from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Admission 50p including coffee. There will be a good variety of stalls to suit all needs. Contributions to the ever popular cake stall will be most welcome. All proceeds are in aid of the Residents Amenity Fund which helps to provide those little welcome extras for the residents.

The celebrations will continue with an Exhibition and Harvest Day Services over the period Friday 6th to Sunday October 8th. The Exhibition will depict the life of the church from its foundation in 1931, the development over the years, the activities and life of the church today and plans for the future. The Exhibition will be open on Friday 6th from 10.30am. to 4.30 pm. and on Saturday 7th from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Light refreshments will be available each day.

The Harvest Day Services on Sunday 8th will be led by our minister Rev. Harvey Richardson at 10.30 am. and 3.00 pm. You are cordially invited to join in the celebrations, to visit the Exhibition and attend the Harvest Day services. We shall be pleased to see you and your friends.



LORD OF THE RINGS

First major adaptation of J R R Tolkien's classic trilogy Theatre Royal Drury Lane - Tuesday 5 June 2007

Join us for this unmissable event that will transform the theatre into middleearth. With a spectacular design and an ensemble of over 70 actors, singers and musicians.

Top Price Seats: Normally £50.00
Early booking rate, coach inclusive: £41.50 each
Pick-up point: Costcutters, Wickham Road at 5.45pm
Payment by 1 October 2006 please

Christine Ross-Smith - Tel:

MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2006

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MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

'I wish to become a member of the Monks Orchard Residents' Association'

Name:	Signature:
Address:	
	Post Code:

Please send this completed form to:

DIANE MCINERNEY

Thank you for supporting MORA

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