

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER - Autumn 2013



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The Monks Orchard Residents' Association was founded in 1923, and represents approximately 2,000 residents.

Chairman's Comments

Those of you who use the Ashburton Playing fields will know we have been plagued with (sic) Travellers who have left us rate payers to pay to clear up their mess. You will find photographs of this elsewhere in the newsletter. The Council have, I understand, been attempting to get these people out of the Croydon environs by issuing injunctions, to whom I am not sure. However, if anyone has a telephoto lens on their camera and sees anyone dumping rubbish and we can identify an individual (e.g. vehicle registration) we will do our utmost to ensure that person is brought to justice through the court system.

It seems our appeal to obtain the services of more road stewards has had a partial success although more are needed to reduce the workload of a few. 'Use us or lose us' is near enough but rather than use us 'join us'.

It appears the permitted development rights are still an issue and have not yet concluded. We are all aware of the need for affordable housing and those residents who want to make the most of their homes, which generally is the most important financial commitment they make, but we need to control the built environment to ensure we have happy surroundings for all.

You will have seen from the previous newsletter that Jean Cook has retired from the MORA committee after many years of sterling work. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well for the future.

It appears the Shirley Oaks Village residents' association has folded. We have invited the residents to join us and they have asked for details of what we do and what would be required of them. We are currently in discussion and personally I would be delighted if they join us, not the least to swell our numbers. Don't forget the larger the numbers the more power we have in persuading Croydon Council to listen to us. We, after all, are the voters and they realise that.

At the last AGM I did ask the question if there were any Councillors offering their services to property developers to obtain planning permission for remuneration. We were told they were not aware of any. This doesn't mean it doesn't happen so if anyone has knowledge to the contrary I would be pleased to hear from them.

Anyone who uses Orchard Grove will have noticed the increase in the length of the double yellow lines. MORA takes full responsibility for this as it was getting a bit hairy with parents dropping off their little darlings to school with no respect for other road users.

Happy days!

Dave King
Chairman

The Travellers Return !!!

On 22rd June, the Travellers descended again and set up their encampment on the Ashburton Playing Fields. MORA informed the Council Parks Department, our MP and local Councillors that we had a possible 'on-going' problem to get the travellers to honour their peregrination i.e. to continue to 'travel' but away from our area and not encamp for the summer duration and ruin our parks and open spaces. The first response to our email was that the Enforcement Team had informed the Parks Department that Notice was to be served on the group at Ashburton Playing Fields on 23rd June and Officers and Bailiffs were to meet them at 11am on Tuesday 25th June for their removal. One of our Committee Members witnessed one of the travellers fly tipping and emailed the council about midday. On a second occasion a member of your committee informed the police about fly tipping and the police attended the site (not sure what they did).



We are not sure how they gained access but would guess it's through one of the gates either in Collieridge Road or by the flats in Stroud Green. We have been informed that it would be helpful if the council made these entry points more secure.

We subsequently received an acknowledgement from Sara Bashford on behalf of our MP Gavin Barwell:

"Mr King

Thank you for contacting Gavin Barwell about the problem of Travellers in Ashburton. He is aware of their presence and the recent move they have made. He is liaising closely with the council, who are themselves taking every possible step to remove them as quickly as possible.

For a more long term solution to the problem, the Council are seeking legal redress and hope to be able to gain an injunction against this particular group of travellers, who move from site to site and cause thousands of pounds worth of damage and mess. As you are aware any legal action takes time and is ultimately at the courts discretion. We hope that the injunction is able to be granted sooner rather than later, but in the meantime, every time these Travellers move the Council will either take direct action or advise any landowner whose property they have settled on, to move them on as quickly as possible."

Regards

Sara Bashford

Senior Caseworker for Gavin Barwell MP.

However, they pre-empted the Officers and Bailiffs by moving from Ashburton Playing Fields but then appeared on the Oasis grounds, damaging the perimeter fence to gain access. The Academy was made aware of the incursion and the council supported them in managing the eviction from this site.

A large quantity of fly tipped rubbish was left behind the pavilion of Ashburton Playing Fields, and arrangements were being made for this to be removed. This was cleared at the Council's expense.

The Council have moved as quickly as they are legally able to with this eviction.

The Council is looking at long term options to prevent further illegal encampments including preventative measures at particular locations and exploring other legal remedies such as an injunction. These all come at





a cost and in the meantime we have to work within the legal processes, which mean that once the travellers gain access to Croydon Parks or Highways they are going to be there for a few days before we can evict. During 2012 the Council experienced an increase in unauthorised encampments, which resulted in an increase in officer time to deal with them

and an increase in direct costs associated with legal proceedings, preventative measures and clean up expenses.

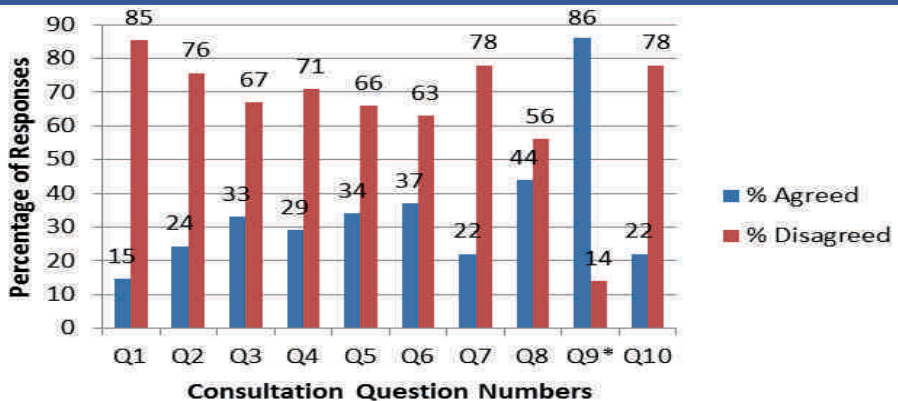
The average cost for each trespass during 2012 including bailiffs, clean up and direct staff costs per occasion has been estimated at £1,539 and the total estimated cost for 2012 was £128,695, this total includes the cost of preventative measures during 2012 which was £25,582.50.

The travellers are complaining that the Council are hassling them! Croydon Council are actively pursuing a Borough wide injunction.

At the time of writing, some Travellers had encamped on Lloyd Park and they had broken down a fence to Sparrows Den, West Wickham where 16 to 20 vans had gained access. Bromley council had ordered them to leave by 9.00 am on the 4th July.

The Art of Obfuscation

On the 17th June, The Communities and Local Government Select Committee put questions to the Planning Minister, **Nick Boles MP – Under Secretary of State (Planning)**. MORA had provided a list of 20 Questions to the Select Committee, with back up reasons, references, observations and substance. Our questions were specifically on the Communities and Local Government analysis of the ‘consultation on the extension of permitted development rights’. Together with our explanatory notes, they reflected our frustrations at the biased analysis and the overwhelming intensity of disagreement expressed about the government’s inappropriate planning proposals.



The following is extracted from the uncorrected transcript of the oral evidence. (see endnote 1)

MORA Question 1 Why was the consultation period reduced from 8 to 6 weeks for these known contentious proposals?

MORA Question 2 Why was the consultation held during the lead up to such an important holiday when families are frequently preparing for the Christmas festivities?

MORA Question 3 Were responses to the relaxation of permitted development proposals unfairly diluted by the government's unreasonable time restrictions?

Q22 Simon Danczuk MP raised the MORA questions 1 to 3:

Nick Boles: *"It may have been slightly my fault, because I think on my first appearance at the Select Committee, which was barely hours after I had been appointed, I might have indicated that it. ..."*

Q23 Simon Danczuk: *"I hope you are not blaming us, Minister."*

Nick Boles: *"No, no, I blame myself. I might have indicated that I thought it was going to be eight weeks. My understanding is that the Cabinet Office undertook a consultation on consultation times across Government, just because there was this slight sense that we were in this endless planes-circling-around-waiting-to-land of consultations. They decided, therefore, that six weeks would be appropriate for certain kinds of consultation and it was decided that this was one for which six weeks was sufficient. All I would say to you is that there certainly was no shortage of responses as a result of the reduced period, so the views were fully expressed even if some were less lengthy than you might have hoped."*

Q24 Simon Danczuk: *"There might have been more if it had not finished on Christmas Eve and if it had gone on for longer."*

Nick Boles: *"I do not know, Mr Danczuk, how many people you know who would have been likely to have spent the period between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day answering consultations on permitted development rights, but I do not know many."*

MORA Comment: That's why it was the minimum six weeks to run out as near as possible to Christmas. The consultation could have started much earlier as it was known to be a contentious issue directly after the announcement on 12th September!

MORA Question 4 Why were the results of the public consultation withheld from the public and MPs?

MORA Question 5 Were the Government awaiting the opportunity to surreptitiously reveal the consultation responses when media and public attention was diverted elsewhere? [i.e. when Parliament was prorogued prior to the State Opening, while press attention was directed towards the Queen's Speech].

MORA Question 6 Why is it considered to be "normal Government procedure" for the House to debate proposals which have been the subject of a wide and expensive consultation when the results of that consultation are denied to MP's during debates on the issue?

MORA Question 7 What was the purpose of the consultation if there was no account taken of the results during and prior to the parliamentary debate and prior to secondary legislation being laid before parliament?

MORA Question 8 Do these "normal procedures" undermine the principals of consultation, parliamentary debate and democracy itself?

MORA Question 9 As only adjacent neighbours with properties which abut the proposed permitted development would be allowed to comment on the proposal, could the minister confirm whether it would be possible for Residents' Associations to represent their members affected by the proposed development?

MORA Question 10 What happened to the 222 missing responses and why were these conclusions not incorporated into the summary document?

MORA's Q4 to Q 10 were not posed or answered by the Chair or members

MORA Question 11 What was the purpose of the consultation if there was no account taken of the overwhelming consultation results during and prior to the parliamentary debates and prior to secondary legislation being laid before parliament?

C&LG SC Q25

Nick Boles: *"Well, of course we did listen and took them all very seriously, but there is a fundamental imbalance in consultations. It is that it is human*

nature that, if you currently enjoy a particular power or a particular level of control, and there is a proposal to remove that from you, firstly, you are more likely to be aware of the proposal, because you are the person or the institution that currently enjoys that power. Secondly, you are quite likely to object to it. Thirdly, you are quite likely to think that it is worth submitting a response to a public consultation.

The people who are going to benefit from this change are millions of individuals, families and businesses, who have no idea that there was a consultation taking place on this particular permitted development change; if they had an idea, probably relatively few of them would feel sufficiently excited by the prospect as to want to submit a response. That is an inbuilt bias in all consultations, which is why one should always take all of the responses very seriously for the quality of their arguments, but any attempt to play a simplistic numbers game about the number in favour or the number against should be viewed with great suspicion. I would say the same even if we had had a majority approving it. The truth is that most of the people who will be affected will not respond.”

MORA Comment: Thus the consultation's overwhelming results are to be modified to assume all those that did not respond were **FOR** the proposals but couldn't be bothered to respond?

Division!.....Lock the doors!85% Noes and 15% Ayes

We assume all those outside would have voted Aye

so the Ayes have it, the Ayes Have it.

DEMOCRACY!!!!

Reference Endnote 2

MORA Question 12 Will the Minister publish a full and complete response report to the Consultations, listing all respondents? If not, why not? Would a FOI request be required to obtain the information?

Not asked or answered

MORA Question 13 How will the government measure amenity? What is the government's definition of Amenity? What is the percentage or defined quantity for loss of amenity which would be considered unacceptable or acceptable?

C&LG SC Q28

Nick Boles: *“I am not a planner and I am always rather nervous about straying into the—I was going to say dark arts, but that is the wrong phrase—particular science and art of planning. My understanding is that “amenity” is quite a well-developed concept in planning terms and that one of the advantages of it as a concept is that it captures a number of different things. The root of the concept is simply this: if you live next door to a*

property, you have the right to, in the fullest sense of the word, enjoy your property. If something that happens next door to you is going to interfere with that enjoyment, then it is something that you might want to object to. Now, not absolutely everything is captured in planning terms, because other things would be captured in environmental health or whatever, but planning has the ability to capture a range of different issues that would interrupt your enjoyment of your property and that is what “amenity” does. What the objections focused on, both in the consultation and in the discussions in both Houses of Parliament, was people living next door who were going to feel that their enjoyment of their property was deteriorating as a result.”

Obfuscation! He could not define “amenity”

Q29 Mark Pawsey MP: *Right, so it is purely “amenity” in respect of the neighbour rather than any broader assessment of what “amenity” might be.*

Nick Boles: It is, yes.

MORA Question 14 Does the government intend to accept responsibility for failure to protect neighbours’ properties and other areas from problems such as flash flooding or localised flooding, created by allowing permitted planning regulations that would have been avoided by retaining existing planning procedures?

MORA Question 15 How does the government propose to legalise these properties to allow their future sale?

MORA Question 16 Further developments could completely change the character of an area. How can the Local Authority have knowledge of, or prevent the systematic growth of ‘Beds-in-Sheds’?

MORA Question 17 What impact assessment will be possible to assess whether, at the end of three years, the relaxation of permitted development rights should continue if the LPA’s have no knowledge or data feedback, from the local population, of the acceptability or otherwise of the extended permitted development rights?

MORA Q14 to Q17 Not asked and not answered.

MORA Question 18 Has the Government reneged on the commitment to prevent Garden Grabbing or Back-land Development?

C&LG SC Q3 Nick Boles: *“As for garden-grabbing, that always referred to separate developments: distinct new dwellings that were being created at the ends of people’s gardens. It was being actively promoted by the previous Government’s rather crude “brownfield first” policy, which did not actually reflect the fact that gardens were classified as brownfield land. That is what we campaigned against, because those gardens are often the crucial environmental lung for neighbourhoods. I think that most reasonable people*

would understand that flogging off the end of your garden for somebody else to build an apartment block or a couple of houses in is very different from extending your own property at a single storey level—no higher than four metres—in order to cater for your own growing family. Those are two very, very different cases, and that is why we have very different policy responses to the two of them.”

MORA Comment: There is no difference between selling off a chunk (with planning permission) or the owner building on it (without planning permission)! The end result is the same—loss of garden & amenity.

MORA Question 19 Has the government's disregard for parliamentary procedure and its cynical manipulation of the results of the consultation process, undermined the democratic process of parliament as a whole, this Bill in particular and the public's trust in our coalition government?

MORA Question 20 What effect has there been of the cynical delay of publishing the results of the consultation for MP's, the respondents and the public, on the attitude to their involvement in future consultation's and their confidence in future parliamentary processes?

MORA Q 19 and 20 Not Answered

We contend that the Communities and Local Governments biased analysis of the responses to the consultation has done great damage to public inclusion and future support for consultations. If the government continue to ignore the views of the public and respondents to consultations, they will reap the result at the ballot box.

You can watch the complete Select Committee on Parliament TV archive at:

<http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Archive.aspx>

at 2 Unclick all but Committees

Insert date 17.06.2013 as start and end date.

Enter search and Click on 4.10pm HoC Communities and Local Government. Scroll on to about 5.00 pm.

Endnote 1 “It is a condition of reference that any public use of, or reference to; the contents (Ed. of the transcript of these proceedings) should make clear that neither witnesses nor Members have had the opportunity to correct the record. The transcript is not yet an approved formal record of these proceedings. But that will become available in due course.”

Endnote 2 Written Ministerial Statement, Cabinet Office 17 July 2012, Minister for Government Policy: “Consultation Principles.”

Ed. If you would like a full copy of the MORA submission to the Select Committee email your request to: editor.mora@btinternet.com

My Hobby - By Barbara Turner

Archery is my main hobby and my first experience of it was whilst on holiday well over twenty years ago. Short sessions were given which allowed us holidaymakers to experience this sport. I was hooked straightaway and determined to take this up 'one day' but had no idea when because of work commitments.

However, in 1996, after life saving heart surgery, I viewed life very differently and vowed that I wasn't saying 'one day' anymore as life's too short and precious to use those words. Hence, in 1997 I commenced a beginners' archery course at Warlingham Archery Club. I was immediately addicted to it and still am, even though, as in all sports, frustrating ups and downs are the 'norm'.

There are various types of archery, of which target archery is my first choice. The target is a marked coloured face with gold in the centre then rings of red, blue, black and finally white on the outside. The position of the arrow on the



target face denotes the number of points gained. Once proficient at the shorter distances progression is gradually made until the farthest distance possible is reached. In my case being a female, 80 yards, but for men it's 100 yards.

Whilst training, wooden recurve bows are used. After this, recurve bows with metal risers (handles) and laminated limbs are the most usual.

Some archers prefer an all-wooden longbow and others a compound bow with pulleys.

Fitness and stamina are quite important, as strong shoulder muscles need to be developed to pull the bow string back to the required position. Arrows should be compatible with the type of bow used. The length of the arrow needs to correspond with the draw length of the archer's arm. The string has to be pulled back to an 'anchor point', usually the chin, to give consistency in shooting the arrows.

We have competitions within our club and there are also County competitions, both indoor and outdoor. This gives an opportunity to participate with competitors from all over the country, as well as having a good day out.

Archery can be started at any age, from childhood onwards and continues for as long as desired. I endeavour to do at least three archery sessions a week. However, I wouldn't say practice makes perfect but at least I get plenty of fresh air and exercise!

Barbara Turner

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BARNFIELD AVENUE'S 'BIG LUNCH'

One year on from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, when we gathered on our green to mark the event, many residents of Barnfield Avenue re-united for the 'Big Lunch' on 2nd June. This time, though, instead of teams of people organising the preparations for the day, our get together was very much a spontaneous



that the residents had prepared and provided. There is no doubt that Barnfield Avenue has some great cooks!

There was a time when community spirit played a major part in many of our lives but then gradually became eroded as life took on a faster pace. However, I think that those of us who got together again on 2nd June proved that, in reality, underneath it is still there.

gathering. All it had taken was an e-mail, instigated by one of the residents, to various neighbours to spread the word and that was it.

The arrival of lunch time once again transformed our green as, in sunshine, we again gathered together to enjoy the company of our neighbours and especially the array of absolutely wonderful food



Joan Pring

SAVE THE DAVID LEAN CINEMA CAMPAIGN

Croydon Clocktower was a visionary project which succeeded in incorporating the town's Central Library; the Museum of Croydon; a cinema; the Braithwaite Hall (a theatre/performance space); a shop; a café; a tourist information centre and more into a complex that was largely new, but also utilised parts of the old Town Hall. Striking modern architecture was harmoniously fused with Victorian elegance, resulting in a cultural centre described by *Time Out* as "The jewel in Croydon's crown."



The David Lean Cinema's elegant entrance

The 68 seat David Lean Cinema, named after the celebrated Croydon-born director of films such as *Lawrence of Arabia* opened in early 1995. The Clocktower's website called it: "an intimate, air-conditioned oasis where the most popular films aren't necessarily blockbusters and where a well-crafted script and skilful cinematography are valued as highly as a pretty face and the latest special effects." It built up a loyal audience and on weekday afternoons it was often filled with retired patrons, who enjoyed films such as *Tea with Mussolini* but also embraced subtitled 'art house' releases. Mainstream hits were not ignored and you could also see (for example) the latest James Bond film in a quiet audience without distractions.

Sadly, the Council's hasty arts-related cuts resulted in the closure of the cinema in April 2011, following a consultation exercise that allowed no scope to consider an alternative solution. A memorable final season "celebrating 16 years of fiercely independent programming" featured appearances by two guest curators: Croydon legend Ronnie Corbett and Oscar-winning script writer, actor and director (Lord) Julian Fellowes, currently best known for writing *Downton Abbey*.

Corbett, introducing *Brief Encounter*, praised the cinema, saying: "We must start a campaign so that this darling place isn't trashed." This and a growing sense of how deeply-felt the loss would be inspired the start of a non-political campaign that urged the Council to reconsider the cinema's future. We gained the support from Lord Fellowes (a Conservative peer), and the

BFI. A public meeting at the Green Dragon in Croydon was attended by nearly 100 people and volunteers formed a committee.

The Fairfield Halls took on the David Lean's 'branding' in mid-2011. They show some good films that we publicise to members, but the programme is sparse and the Concert Hall could not be less like the David Lean in character, so claims that the cinema had "moved" rather than closed were misleading.

With members spreading the word and some good press coverage, the Campaign grew steadily and in January 2012 we presented a petition of nearly 1,500 signatures asking the Council to "engage with constructive proposals" that could enable the cinema to reopen. We now have over 750 members.

We help to fill the gap by presenting regular film seasons at the Spread Eagle in Katharine Street and occasional larger

screenings elsewhere. The latter have included showing films at festivals in Purley and South Norwood this summer. MORA members might be particularly interested in our events held every four months in Shirley Community Centre. The latest in June attracted a record attendance of 105. Our screenings also help to build what we hope will effectively become a support group that helps to make reopened cinema viable in future.

We are talking to the Council about presenting some films actually within the David Lean Cinema. The Council currently seems more willing to work with community groups and they appear keen to at least make some use of the closed Clocktower facilities. We hope that there will be positive news by the time this article is published. If you miss the David Lean and would like to ensure that you hear about future screenings in the cinema, in Shirley or at the Spread Eagle, please ask to be added to our membership list. Email

██████████ or telephone ██████████. We also have a Facebook page that features news, press coverage and photos: www.facebook.com/LeanCampaign



One of the Campaign's screenings at Shirley Community Centre

Adrian Winchester

BETHLEM: MUSEUM OF THE MIND

BETHLEM ROYAL HOSPITAL ARCHIVES & MUSEUM



Bethlem Administration Building, 1930

For over 40 years, the Bethlem Archives & Museum has supported research and exhibited treasures from its collections in a small building tucked away in a corner of the Bethlem Royal Hospital site. In the autumn of 2014, a new Museum of the Mind will open in the main administration building of the Bethlem Royal Hospital, showcasing the historical and art collections amid the Art Deco

features pictured above.

The Bethlem Royal Hospital – generally agreed to be the world’s oldest remaining psychiatric hospital – was founded in 1247 at Bishopsgate, just outside the City of London. As London expanded, the Governors several times sought a more ‘Airy and Healthy situation’ for the patients, for environment was considered a key part of pre-modern therapy. The Hospital moved in 1676, and again in 1815: on the latter occasion to St George’s Fields in Southwark, the building that now houses the Imperial War Museum.

The current hospital was officially opened in 1930 on the Monks Orchard site in Beckenham. The Hospital Chaplain, Edward Geoffrey O’Donoghue, wrote of his various ‘pilgrimages’ to the developing site in the hospital magazine, ‘Under the Dome’ in the 1920s. He described the surrounding Spring Park, West Wickham Common and the Shirley hills and woods as a ‘delightful pleasure ground’ for the growing neighbourhood. By 1926, there were also ‘handsome red brick houses springing up with magical celerity on both sides of the Wickham Road. Roofed to-day, and “Sold” to-morrow!’

Central to the new Museum of the Mind will be a permanent exhibition, which draws on an internationally recognised collection of archives, art and historic objects, covering 450 years of history. The exhibition will offer a broad historical perspective on mental health care and treatment and shifting attitudes to mental illness. Planned themes include ‘Labelling and Diagnosis’ (exploring the varying experiences people have had of diagnoses of mental illness, whether stigmatising, liberating or depersonalising), while



Richard Dadd – Sketch to Illustrate the Passions (Grief or Sorrow)

'Freedom and Constraint' considers the physical, legal and social constraints that might have been enforced in various periods of history.

The Museum has an art collection of nearly 1,000 paintings, drawings, sculptures and sketches. These include works by well-known artists, such as Richard Dadd (1817 – 1886), whose 'Sketch to Illustrate the Passions (Grief or Sorrow)' is featured to the left.

Dadd is renowned for his detailed fairy paintings, including 'The Fairy-Feller's Master Stroke', which is held by the Tate Gallery. This was painted while Dadd was

resident at Bethlem, where he was a patient for twenty years, before his move to the newly built Broadmoor Hospital in 1863. Other artists represented in the collection (a number of whom were residents or outpatients at the Bethlem or Maudsley Hospitals) include Louis Wain, Marion Patrick, Charles Sims, Bryan Charnley and Stanley Lench, whose brightly coloured canvases depict stylised images of 1960s and '70s celebrities.

The new museum is intended as a community space, for site users and local residents, as well as an important visitor destination, attracting international tourism to the area. Our education service will offer talks and tours to schools and local interest groups, while regular events and exhibitions will provide entertainment and educational opportunities. There will also be volunteering and training opportunities in the new museum. Plans are currently under development, and we are keen to invite feedback from local residents, in person or online.

To find out more, visit: <http://bethlemheritage.wordpress.com/consultation>



Stanley Lench - William Blake II

Planning Report

1 The current application for the retention of a single storey outbuilding at 31A Woodmere Avenue

was originally presented as a 'permitted development' application. As such, neither MORA nor local residents had the opportunity to object to this application. This **permitted development** outbuilding was for a gymnasium to be used by the family. The proposal was approved and built.



Following complaints that the development was being used as a residence, the council visited and discovered that this outbuilding was built out of the specification as set out in the approval document. Internal walls and windows had been changed. The rear doorway was missing and the roof was too high. The enforcement officer also concluded that the building was being used for **accommodation**.

The Council requested the developer to present a **new retrospective planning application (ref: 13/01397/P)** as it could no longer be considered for assessment as a permitted development. Standard planning applications are required to comply with **many additional Local, London and National planning regulations**.

Neighbours and MORA were now allowed to comment on the plans. Eighteen neighbours objected and were supported by **MORA, our M.P., four local Councillors and Steve O'Connell**, our representative at the GLA. We assume that as the MP and Councillors have referred the application, it will go before the Full Planning Committee for a decision. We await the date of the Planning Committee.

2 **The proposed development at 62 and R/O 64 Woodmere Avenue (ref: 13/02068/P)** is an equally contentious application for the erection of 2 four bedroom and 4 three bedroom houses with garages and alterations to vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

This application was **rejected by the planning authority** and subsequently **referred to the inspectorate as an appeal**. Modified plans were presented to the inspector at the last moment and neighbours were thus unable to comment on these plans **within the time limits**. We hope that the inspector has subsequently **accepted neighbours and MORA's comments** and that a decision is imminent.



The developer has now invited neighbours to view further sets of plans **which he intends to submit for approval to the LPA**.

The bulk of the work associated with organising the campaign to oppose these planning applications has been undertaken by **Anne Kenny**. MORA has supported Anne, and the **60 objectors** as required. The campaigners have also won **the support of our M.P. Gavin Barwell, our councillors Adam Kellet, Eddy Arram and Avril Slipper and also Steve O'Connell, our member of the GLA**. We congratulate and commend Anne and her team for all their hard work.

3 Anne Kenny has also been overseeing objections to the planning application at **3 Woodmere Close**. This is another complex **back garden development**. Anne, Cllr Adam Kellett and our MP Gavin Barwell all **spoke against the proposed development**. The application was **rejected on the grounds of additional traffic, inappropriate development out of character with the area and also because of being a back garden development**.

4 Some time ago an application was **approved by the LPA** to build two houses at the rear of 69 Verdayne Avenue. Their **decision to approve this back garden, tandem development was effectively forced upon them by the planning inspectorate**, which is part of Central Government. **Our LPA were originally very strongly opposed to the application as the design was totally out of character with the area**, and had previously advised the developer to not even submit the initial planning application. **The planning inspector disagreed with the council believing that saving a holly tree would be more important to the local community!** The community had little choice other than to accept the inspector's strange conclusions and put up with these **two modernistic and alien looking properties**.
The developer has now applied to increase the size of these

properties. MORA will fight to protect our environment, but we believe that it will be **difficult to overturn the inspector's strange and unexpected precedent**, which is now effectively sanctioned by central government. **MORA believe that any proliferation of this type of modernistic building, set within and adjacent to classical styled buildings, will destroy the character of our area.** Please help us to overturn this errant application by objecting to the LPA. You do not have to live locally to object. Details are available on the council website.
<http://publicaccess.croydon.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Permitted Developments

Perhaps it was too much to hope that MORA could influence the government's determination to introduce these changes to the legislation on permitted developments. It is true that changes were required, but it would have made more sense to scrap this legislation altogether. We will now have to sit back and monitor the deterioration of our area and the consequential changes in the character of Monks Orchard. We hope that the effects are not too devastating. MORA, together with many other organisations were able to restore the rights of immediate neighbours to object to permitted development applications, but these objectors only have the right to object to loss of amenity, for which there is no adequate definition and they are only allowed 21 days to do so. Other characteristics which affect the sustainability of a development are uncontrolled.. However, MORA can advise local residents on the possible grounds for objection if a neighbour applies for permitted development to erect an extension or an outbuilding.

MORA will continue to fight to maintain the character of our area. We hope that our LPA recognise this as we have attended a meeting to define the character of Monks Orchard. We believe that one of the most important features is to maintain, to the best of our ability, the housing density and to reduce the number of infill developments and back garden and tandem developments.

Residents' Associations and most of their members have been denied their rights to influence the increase of large single story extensions and outrageously large outbuildings, but we are still determined to do all we can to support our members.

Shirley Library's Publicity

Free Regular Events for Children

Storytime – Thursdays 2.15-2.45pm

Rhymetime – Fridays 10.00-10.30am

Once Upon a Rhyme – Every other

Saturday 10.00-10.30am. [*]

Saturday Crafts – Every other Saturday
2.30-4pm.

Chatterbooks is a free monthly reading group for children aged 8-11 years old.

It's held on a Friday from 4-5pm and

members can make new friends and discuss which books they've read. Members also take part in games and quizzes and there are occasional visits from authors and illustrators of children's books.

Teen Reading Group is a free monthly reading group which meets on a Thursday from 4.30-5.30pm. It's similar to Chatterbooks but it's for Teenagers.

Free Regular Events for Adults

Free monthly author / speaker talks. Please contact the library to reserve a place.

- RSPB talk – Garden Birds and Birdsong – Monday 16th September from 2.15-3.30pm
- The Curious Story of the Crystal Palace "Lost" Railway – Thursday 3rd October from 2.15-3.30pm
- Black History Month talk – Author Elaine Tsopotsa will talk about her book The Zebra Crossings on Monday 21st October from 2.15-3.30pm
- Author Linda MacDonald will talk about her book Meeting Lydia on Tuesday 19th November from 2.15-3.30pm

Work Club on Tuesday mornings from 10am-12 noon. The Work Club is here to offer support with job search, help with typing CVs, help filling in application forms and there is access to the internet and email. No appointment is needed, just drop in.

Monthly Craft Workshop - Card making. This is usually held on the second Tuesday in the month from 2.30-4.30pm [*]

Adult Reading Group – The group meets on the second or third Thursday in the month from 6-7pm. Please contact the library for dates and a list of the chosen books.



Fortnightly Stitch, Knit and Natter – This is held every other Friday from 2.30-4.30pm. [*]

Computer sessions for beginners—Learn to set up an email account, use Facebook, do online shopping, use Word, Excel and Powerpoint or improve your typing skills. Mondays and Tuesdays in the morning and afternoon and on Saturday mornings. [*]

You can buy food waste sacks at the library. They now come in packs of 75 which cost £5.25. We also sell garden waste sacks for £1 each.

Board games – Do you like playing Scrabble, Monopoly, cards, chess and Battleship? We have a selection of games which can be used in the library any time.

Police surgery with Shirley's Safer Neighbourhood Team. This no longer takes place at the library. You can meet the team at their street briefings which are held in Shirley. You can get details of the dates and times of the street briefings from Shirley Library. [Also see item below]

Our display boards are available for use free of charge to advertise your club or society. Please contact Fiona or Irene at Shirley Library on [REDACTED] or email: shirley@croydon.gov.uk Telephone Number: 020 8726 6900 x 14300

Opening Hours:

Monday 9am - 1pm, 2pm -6pm

Tuesday 9am - 1pm, 2pm -6pm

Wednesday Closed


Thursday 9.30am - 1pm, 2pm - 7pm

Friday 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 6pm

Saturday 9am - 5pm

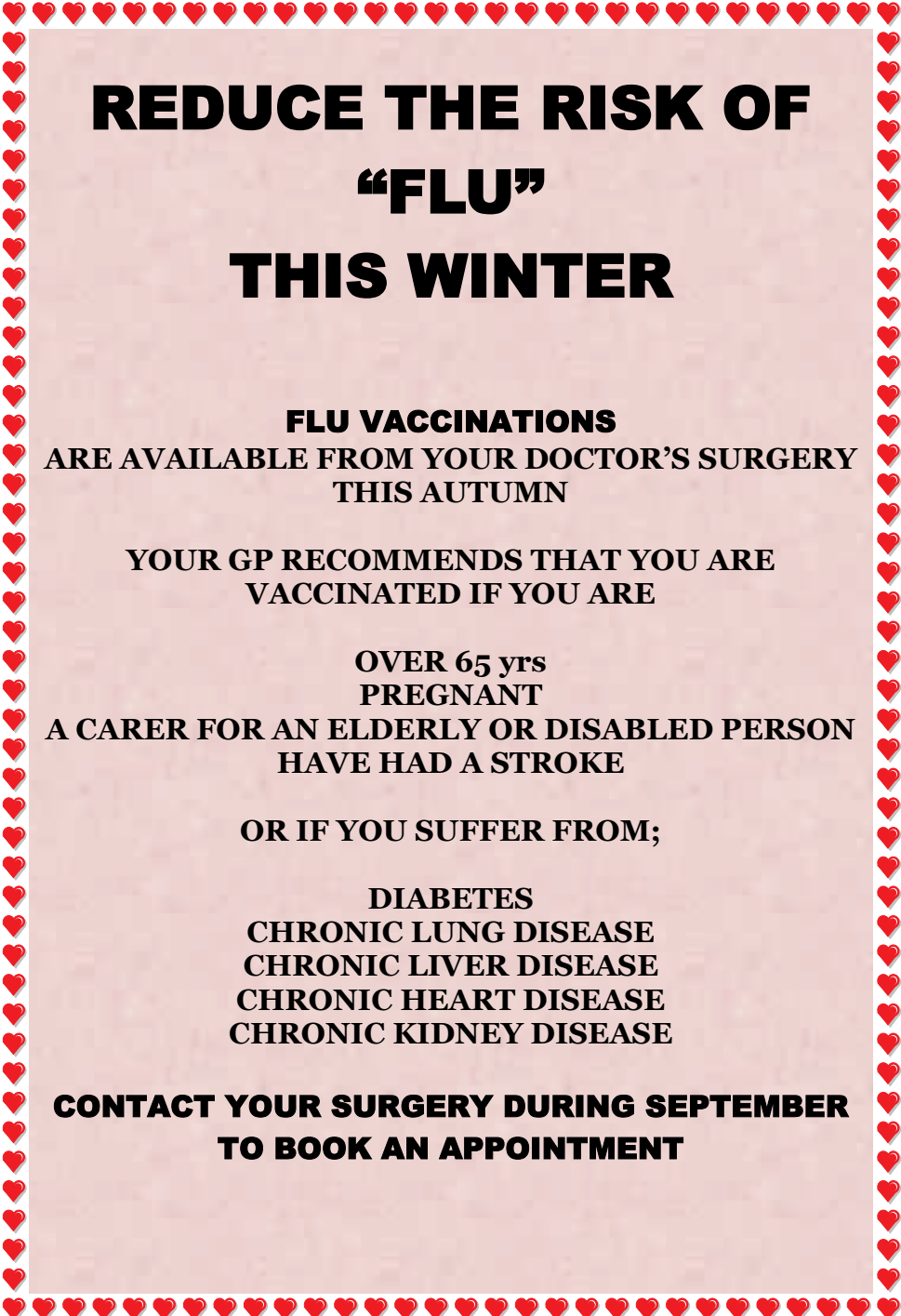
Sunday Closed

[*] Note: Please contact the library for dates or further details.



SNT Information Update

The Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Team will be vacating their Wickham Road office and will be using Addington Village Police Station as their base on or around October 7th. No fuller details as yet but they will be published on their website 'Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Team' nearer the time. There should also be a list of the SNT team of officers.

A decorative border of red hearts surrounds the entire text area.

REDUCE THE RISK OF “FLU” THIS WINTER

**FLU VACCINATIONS
ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR DOCTOR’S SURGERY
THIS AUTUMN**

**YOUR GP RECOMMENDS THAT YOU ARE
VACCINATED IF YOU ARE**

**OVER 65 yrs
PREGNANT
A CARER FOR AN ELDERLY OR DISABLED PERSON
HAVE HAD A STROKE**

OR IF YOU SUFFER FROM;

**DIABETES
CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE
CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE
CHRONIC HEART DISEASE
CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE**

**CONTACT YOUR SURGERY DURING SEPTEMBER
TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT**



Shirley Community and Charity

Christmas Fair

Saturday 16 November 2013

Shirley Parish Hall, Wickham Road

11.00am – 4.00pm

FREE ENTRY

Garden Sculptures, Books, Candles,
Chocolates, Christmas decorations,
Christmas bags, Crafty items, Hampers,
Handmade cards, Homemade cakes,
Honey, Jams, Jewellery, Knitted gifts,
Toiletries and lots more.

Supporting:

***Demelza / Evelina Children's Hospital /
Help for Heroes / Royal Marsden /
St Christopher's Hospice / Town Women's Guild /
Women's Institute***

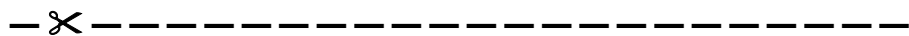
Father Christmas arrives

at 12.00 noon



MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013-2014

Chairman	Dave King	
Secretary	Mary Evans	
Treasurer	Terry Greenwood	
Planning	Ian Fraser	
Membership Secretary	Diane McInerney	
Editor	Derek Ritson	
Advertising Manager	Barbara Turner	
Primary Care	Mercia Nash	
Social Secretary	Christine Ross-Smith	
Transport & Highways	Vacancy	-
Ward Panel & Security	Joan Pring	
Trees & Open Spaces	Sue & Martyn Buchanan	
Membership Database	Vilas Patel	
Committee Members and Area Managers	{ Michael Nash	
	{ Patricia Turner	
	{ Anne Horton	
	{ John Helen	



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 with your subscription:
cheques payable To Monks Orchard Residents' Association
[£4/year (£2 Senior Citizens)]

DIANE McINERNEY
[Redacted Signature]

Thank you for supporting MORA.
Please pass on to a non-member.

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