

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

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NEWSLETTER - Spring 2010



Image by Emma McInerney

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

Chairman's Comments

MORA has arrived at a crossroad and I ask members to participate in coming to a decision on the future role' of the Association. If MORA is to continue to represent the interests of the local community, there is an urgent need for more help from members willing to devote a small amount of their time. Most members enjoy living in Monks Orchard and many have the skills and ability which could be used to help preserve the special character of the area. Helping the local community for a few hours each month can be satisfying, rewarding and occasionally exciting! Unfortunately, those that have loyally served on the Executive Committee cannot be expected to continue forever. Please ensure you write the date in your diary and attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 23rd April and contribute to the discussion on the future direction of your Association of residents. Included in this newsletter are items that will inform you of the work carried out by MORA on your behalf and also further details of the Annual General Meeting.

The short grey days of winter always tend to depress the human spirit, but somehow it seems more noticeable this year. The arctic spell bringing snow and ice, power failures, heating bills, tragic losses on the battlefield and the threat of increased taxes have all combined to dishearten. By the time this newsletter is produced and delivered, let us hope that the sun arrives to drive the grey clouds away and the promising green shoots of spring start to appear.

It has been announced that the Greater London Council element of the Council Tax is not going to be increased for the second year however the decision on the rate of Croydon Council Tax has not been decided, but it will be reasonable to assume that any increase will be at a minimum and as a consequence swinging cuts will follow.

Bob Akers Chairman

Annual General Meeting 2010

You are invited to attend the eighty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on **Friday 23rd April beginning at 7.30 p.m. in St. George's Church Hall Elstan Way Shirley.**

There will be an opportunity to formally meet, talk and question all the local elected representatives and for members to mention their concerns and suggest how services and the local environment can be improved. Elected representatives are approachable people who are always willing to listen to views on the delivery of services. It will be interesting to learn about future changes and developments planned for our area.

Monks Orchard is fortunate in having six Councillors, three from the Ashburton Ward and three from the Shirley Ward, all of them willing to devote time to attend. Members have indicated that full advantage has not always been taken of their presence. Councillor Avril Slipper has always given a comprehensive report on behalf of all the Councillors on action taken on local issues but members often wish to ask questions about wider issues of Council policy.

Questions will be accepted by the Chairman from the floor of the hall, but those not wishing to speak as a member of the audience are invited to write their questions and pass them to the Chairman before the start of the meeting. Please remember that providing answers to questions on complex issues usually involves preliminary research. Members wishing to have an immediate answer are asked to submit their question in writing with the name and address of the sender to, Dave King, Secretary of Monks Orchard Residents' Association, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or email to monksorchardweb@btinternet.com.

Councillor Steve O'Connell, the member of the Greater London Authority will be attending and has agreed to report on the changes made to the Authority since the Mayoral Elections and take questions from the floor of the meeting.

Andrew Pelling, Member of Parliament, will report on action taken on behalf of local residents.

The meeting will offer an opportunity for members to express their concerns. It will be a two-way process; Perhaps we are all too willing to allow others to do our talking in phone-in programmes and other forms of media; but a two way process offers a chance to have your own say, rather like traditional public meetings held in the past.

Meeting Programme

Essential Association Business

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 3 Matters Arising
To Receive and Adopt the 2009/2010 Annual Reports
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Secretary's Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report
- 7 Planning Report.
- 8 Security Report. Representatives of the Ashburton and Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be in attendance offering the opportunity to raise security concerns.
- 9 Election of Officers and Committee for 2010/2011

The minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting were published in the Summer issue of the newsletter and can be accessed on the MORA website; a few copies will be circulated in the hall.

Presentations and Reports from Elected Representatives.

Ed Note—Subject to any Rules relating to Election Purdah

- A) A panel composed of the Ashburton and Shirley Ward Councillors will report and respond to questions.
- B) Councillor Steve O'Connell, the Member of the Greater London Authority, will report and then respond to questions.
- C) Andrew Pelling, Member of Parliament, will report and then respond to questions.

Please participate in Monks Orchard's very own version of Question Time, to demonstrate that you are interested in the community and care about the area in which you have chosen to live. Come and obtain answers to questions you have always wanted to ask and make your opinions known.

MORA Newsletter Spring Opening Item

Requests have frequently been made for members to take a more active part in the management of the Association. Disappointingly only a limited response has been forthcoming to the appeals made in the newsletter and at the Annual General Meeting, making it necessary for members of your Executive Committee to undertake extra duties in order to replace those members that for a variety of reasons were unable continue. Many of the Executive Committee members have served for a long period of time, for example one has devoted time for the benefit of the local community for over thirty years, and with the passing of the years we are all growing older.

MORA was established almost eighty-five years ago to represent and advance the interests of residents. The Founders of the Association were proud to live in Monks Orchard and wished to preserve its special character. A succession of generations has followed their example but with changing lifestyles and growing diversity the once strong local community spirit is disappearing. Only a few of the younger and newer members of the community attend the Annual General Meeting and it is sad to learn that many residents do not know their neighbours.

We are close to losing MORA. The present situation is that the Association is managed by only a few members and if, as recently, one of those is incapacitated the Association is unable to function. MORA has arrived at a turning point when important decisions about the future direction need to be made. At the Annual General Meeting to be held in April a **final** appeal will be made for applicants for the following vacant posts, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Planning Officer, Newsletter Editor, Tree and Green Space Officer. If insufficient volunteers are forthcoming those present will be asked to vote on how they wish to proceed. The only options are to formally close the Association or to continue in another fashion.

MORA Service for Members

Some local residents ask what MORA does for them; listed below is an outline of the work undertaken on the behalf of members by the Executive Committee who freely devote time and energy for the benefit of the local community. Much more needs to be done and would be if there was more help provided by members.

Belonging to a strong and active Association of residents has many advantages, it is generally accepted that together we are stronger. MORA has an established network of approximately 2,000 members served by 70 Road Stewards, 5 Area Managers and managed by an Executive Committee of twelve members elected by the membership.

Officers monitor proposals and plans submitted by National, Local Government and other authorities that may have an impact on the residents of Monks Orchard and decide if action needs to be taken. Using its established network the Association is in a unique position to quickly circulate information to members and organise appropriate consultation and action. If MORA did not exist it would take considerable time and effort to establish such a large number of residents to form an action group, should the area become under serious threat from the construction of a massive housing estate on an open green space or a large civil engineering project.

MORA is the recognised representative body of the local community and serves as the initial point of contact for national and local organisations and the media. It acts as a voice for the local community.

A task which consumes time and effort is that of Planning. This requires all applications for full planning permission submitted to the council to be read and the supporting plans and documents carefully examined. The residents living adjacent to the proposed development are usually informed by the Planning Department but many local residents might be unaware of applications that could adversely impact upon them. If the planning application is likely to be contentious a flyer is printed

and circulated to inform all the residents living in the vicinity of the site and how they can submit comments. If a sufficient number of residents signify their concerns MORA undertakes visits to the site to take measurements and photographs prior to submitting a carefully crafted letter of objection based on planning law; the support of the elected representatives is then solicited. As a recognised Association of residents MORA can request that the decision on the application is made by the Planning Committee which permits verbal representations to be made by residents.

The character of Monks Orchard owes much to its green open spaces and trees. The Association works with the council Tree Officer to help ensure that trees are protected and, if necessary replaced so that they can be enjoyed by future generations.

The Association has a website which is used to keep residents informed of local activities, crimes, transport, scams and safety issues. The web page requires frequent attention to ensure that it is kept up to date.

The Association is represented on the panels of the Ashburton and Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Teams and exchanges information with the teams on crime, scams and road safety issues.

This is a brief summary of the various activities undertaken by MORA. More could be done if more members were prepared to donate a small amount of their time to help. Using its established links with the council, Greater London Council, Transport for London and other organisations it can use its position to get things done when other approaches have failed.

Parking Problems Update

MORA continues to strive to obtain answers to the concerns expressed by members and a further meeting has taken place. This report is provided by Dave King Hon. Secretary of MORA.

A recent meeting was held at Taberner House arranged by the Member of Parliament, Andrew Pelling to discuss the issue of speeding in Shirley, particularly along the 'rat run' of Orchard

Avenue and the Glade from the Wickham Road and Long Lane. The meeting was attended by Counsellors Avril Slipper and Janet Marshall, two local residents with David Szostak, Director of Traffic, Transport and Road Safety and his Colleague both of Croydon Council and Dave King MORA secretary. A



map of the Monks Orchard area was produced by David Szostak showing the number of collisions in the area from 2006 to September 2009. No fatalities were recorded but there were 18 slight collisions and 1 severe.

Discussions took place as to how best to reduce the incidences of speeding but it appears responsibility is fragmented between the Police, Transport for London and Croydon Council. However, there are moves to provide speed indicators when funds are available following an application to the relevant department. There was a suggestion that a roundabout be constructed at the junction of Orchard Avenue, Orchard Way and Orchard Rise. This will be investigated by the Council and costed but there may be a Trunk Sewer at the location which may make the costs prohibitive. The meeting was very positive and Andrew Pelling will be following up to ensure this situation is not put on the back burner.



Subsequent to the meeting there have been some developments as reported by Mike Barton Group engineer, traffic management; the council has recently introduced a number of SLOW carriageway markings and

chevron boards which it is hoped that will help to encourage lower vehicle speeds around corners in The Glade. There are a number of additional measures still to take place on The Glade, including an additional speed sign and two further vehicle activated bend warning signs.

Local Infrastructure

At the start of the New Year and during the coldest spell of the winter there were failures in the electrical power supply that affected approximately 5,000 local households. Coming in the hours of darkness these created inconvenience and potential hazards and served to remind us how much we rely on this essential service. For some residents the blackout lasted for a short time but others were without power for many hours depriving them of light, heating, cooking, hot water, communications and emergency connections. For most residents it was an upsetting and unwanted inconvenience which was overcome by the use of emergency sources of lighting such as torches and candles but meals were delayed, children put to bed in the dark and driving or walking in icy conditions without street lighting proved hazardous.



The vulnerable members of the community found themselves seriously disadvantaged and at risk of accidents as they groped around in the dark. The breakdown in electrical supply also resulted in an unfortunate few having to meet the cost of repairing electrical appliances, replacing alarm batteries and reconnecting telephone connections. Moreover, the failures that occurred late at night affected wake-up alarms resulting in people being late for work.

The most likely reason for the breakdown in supply is that it was caused by an overloaded supply cable. Unfortunately this is not the only example of how the local power, water and sewage service infrastructure is starting to show signs of being unable to meet the needs of a growing population. When Monks Orchard was first developed for housing, the roads and avenues contained well-spaced properties designed to be occupied by one family. These are being demolished to make way for high density housing, for example the site occupied by a single small

property being used for the erection of a block containing eight or more flats. Many of the gas supply pipes have been replaced to prevent dangerous leakage but the electricity, water and wastewater services still use the wires and pipes that were installed in the early twentieth century when there was less usage of electricity and water. The privatised service utility companies seem reluctant to invest the large amount of money required to ensure that the supply chain can successfully cope with the increasing growth in high density housing.

MORA has been in contact with EDF Energy and the following response was received from James Mack, Customers Relations Officer. "On the 4th January a fault on an underground cable interrupted supplies to 4,460 customers in The Glade area of Shirley. Engineers managed to restore supplies to all but 265 customers within an hour and final supplies were reconnected at 10.30pm.

Unfortunately, the same group of customers were affected by a previous cable fault on a different section of cable at 10.35pm on December 24. On this occasion power was restored to all but 420 customers in just over 40 minutes and the final supplies were reconnected at 1.38am.



EDF are committed to providing a reliable supply of electricity and when they find the network is not working efficiently they carry out work to upgrade their equipment. Following the fault on 4th January they now plan to completely replace a section of cable to reinforce supplies.

Normally the reliability and security of power supplies across our operating area, including Shirley, is very high. EDF Energy Networks are constantly investing to improve the performance

of our network and to meet future needs for power. This year we are investing £400million across our three distribution networks in the South East, East of England and London. Unfortunately, despite this investment, some faults do still occur, often for reasons beyond our control.”

This gives rise to a worrying question; if part of the supply cable required urgent replacement what is the condition of the remainder of the cable?

Abscondment

On Saturday 14th December television and radio stations broadcasted an urgent police appeal for help in tracing a dangerous murderer who had absconded during an escorted shopping trip in West Wickham High Street whilst under the supervision of psychiatric staff of Bethlem Royal Hospital. The absconder was named as Patricia Gillett who was convicted of killing 38 year old Mark Murphy in August 2006 and the judge at her trial at the Old Bailey ordered that she be detained indefinitely. The police appeal carried a warning that this individual is dangerous and should not be approached. Local knowledge indicates that the escape took place when the patient was left alone in a coffee shop in West Wickham High Street whilst the minder visited the toilet. Many Monks Orchard residents live in properties bordering the grounds of the Bethlem Royal Hospital and MORA received a number of calls from members deeply concerned about the escape of Patricia Gillett from her minders and her ability to travel away from the area and to remain on the run for two days.

To give background to these concerns reference has to be made to the guarantee given to residents during the public enquiry following opposition to the expansion in the provision of the Medium Secure Unit at the hospital for the treatment of murderers, paedophiles and dangerous criminals. Assurances were given that **NO** patients considered highly dangerous would be treated at the unit and that emotionally distressed patients would always be held in secure accommodation.

Subsequent to the abscondment Stuart Bell CBE Chief Executive at the hospital contacted residents Associations, schools and the local authority the following day to inform them of the facts surrounding the incident, recognising the legitimate public interest in the incident and stressing that he had a duty of confidentiality to the patient concerned and that an internal investigation will be



Bethlem Royal Hospital

made which will include scrutiny of the assessment process that was undertaken prior to the patient being granted leave and the escort arrangements which were put in place. MORA supports the excellent work undertaken at the hospital and recognises the difficulties associated with the treatment and care of highly distressed patients but this needs to be balanced with the safety of the local community. Over the years there have been a number of incidents involving escapes from the hospital grounds.

In an attempt to gain more information and to ensure that, in future, patients allowed to visit shopping centres are escorted by sufficient experienced nursing staff, letters were sent to government ministers including Andy Burnham M.P. Health Minister. Andrew Pelling M.P. asked a question in the house connected with the abscondment. The responses received mainly refer to the internal investigation to be conducted by the Foundation Trust of the hospital but we will never know the reason for the lapse in security and can only be thankful that the lapse did not have more serious consequences. We are left with the hope that the concern aroused by this unfortunate incident **will result in a more thorough assessment of the danger posed to local residents, the number of escorts needed to prevent abscondment, and the need to notify the public when dangerous patients escape from care.**

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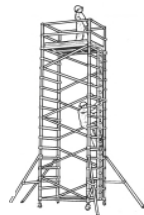
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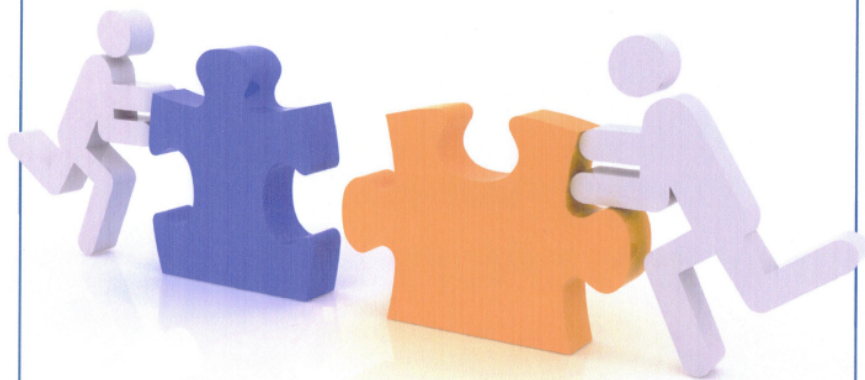
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The Croydon Link

There has been publicity about the establishment of the Croydon Link but local residents may not have troubled to become involved in a net work that will have an important direct influence on the future of health and social care in Croydon. There is the danger that the network could be taken over by self-seeking groups who will follow their own agenda. It is therefore important that the link has a balanced membership that will represent all health and social care needs and those with an interest in health and care issues are urged to become involved.

The Croydon Link is an independent organisation that will have a direct role in the identifying of local needs and in the influencing of development, commissioning and provision of local health and social care services. As a link member you will have an opportunity to say what you think about health and social care services and the chance to be involved in checking how these services are being run and feedback your opinions and, when needed, to bring about change. Local residents should get involved because you can then raise issues of concern with the providers of the service, talk to those responsible for commissioning these services and to hold the service providers to account.

Members of the Croydon Link can donate as much or as little time as they are able. Involvement can range from volunteering to join the link outreach and information team; giving your views on services; representing the concerns of a particular group or issue: training to be an accredited Community Authorised Representative.

Information and details of membership can be obtained from The Croydon Link, Croydon Voluntary Action, FREEPOST CN1929, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8XT.

One of the Statistics:

On the morning of 21st December, I suffered a nasty fall on black ice on the pavement outside Proctors Estate Agents. The result was a shattered left Knee cap. I knew what the damage

was as I was in excruciating pain and could see that my kneecap was a strange shape. The staff at Proctors (I assume) were extremely helpful, providing warm blankets and a chair seat to lift me off the freezing and wet pavement while waiting for an ambulance. I would like to thank the staff of Proctors for their help and will follow up once I am mobile. That put an end to the all the plans for my family's Christmas & New Year celebrations.

Once at Mayday A&E, it was obvious that I was one of many who had had a similar experience. The A&E department was overwhelmed by cases of fractures and sprains etc as a result of falls on un-gritted roads and pavements. Andrew Pelling MP asked the Chief Executive of Mayday, how many people who had fallen on ice and slippery surfaces left with no gritting were attended by Mayday A&E with injuries and what were the comparisons with last year. The figures were:

	2008	2009
Fractures	6	25
Dislocations	1	5
Sprains	4	14

I was one of those statistics. I was eventually examined and x-rayed and it was confirmed that my left knee cap was shattered and in a bad state. I was wheeled to the plaster room – the first of many subsequent visits – to have a “backslab” plaster to immobilise my knee and leg while awaiting surgery and for the flesh wound to stabilise.

Then came the problem of finding a bed. I nearly lost count of the number of wards I was moved to but seem to recall being moved to four wards before finally arriving at Queens 1. One significant procedure at each ward was a test for MRSA on acceptance into the ward. The nurses and staff were very kind and helpful. However, the skin damage to my knee prevented early surgery and I had to wait for the wound to recover sufficiently for the surgeons to be able to make a clean cut to access the fracture and piece together the multiple jigsaw of my shattered kneecap.



After surgery I was placed in a new “backslab” cast from toe to thigh to immobilise the knee for recovery. I had a bit of a fright when one morning I noticed blood was seeping through the front of the cast. I should explain that a “backslab” cast only covers the

back of the leg but has bandages on the front allowing the doctors/nurse to get access to the wound if necessary. The Surgeons were called and they cut away the top bandages and low and behold the plaster cast was full of blood so they had to remove the soiled bandages, clean and sterilise the wound and re-dress and recast the leg. I must say that they handled the situation well but I was quite shocked by the experience. Before I could be discharged from Mayday, I had to have a new full leg plaster cast and convince the physio’s that I could manage to get about on crutches and get up and down stairs safely.

I know its going to be a long and possibly painful recovery; I am obviously very restricted in mobility and my daughter has managed to Wi-Fi my laptop to the internet so I can communicate by email. However, this episode has highlighted just how vulnerable my contribution to MORA is as I have struggled to draft the objection to the proposed development for a 40 Bed Care Home at 59 Greenview Avenue (see Planning Report) and have managed to produce this Spring Newsletter. This has been quite a shock to my system and will obviously have a marked effect on my MORA workload.

I would emphasise that we need some younger blood to mentor and help to cover some of the major activities of MORA such as Chairman, Planning, Editor etc and also Area Managers and Road Stewards otherwise the Association could end – and that would be a great disappointment after 84 years in existence.

Happy New Year to all our members

Best Wishes Derek Ritson - Editor

STOP PRESS : Please support Andrew Pelling’s Petition to protect Mayday A&E (see <http://www.andrewpelling.org.uk/>)

Planning Report

The Credit Crunch and the recession has had a marked effect on the number of Planning Applications over recent months. However, we still need to be vigilant to keep our local living environment safe from inappropriate developments. **The latest horror is an application for a 40 Bed Care Home for the elderly, on the site of 59 Greenview Avenue.** The development proposal is for the erection of two/three storey building with accommodation in roofspace comprising a 40 bedroom care home for the elderly on the site currently occupied by 59 Greenview Avenue. (See New Applications).

Recent infill and back land redevelopments are completely changing the character of of Ashburton and Shirley, against the wishes of the local residents and in complete contradiction to the strongly stated **2006 Key Election Pledge of the Ashburton and Shirley Ward Conservative Councillors on Sensitive Developments – that "a Conservative Council would protect the character of the town by preventing ... insensitive ... infill development."** Yet Croydon has the highest number of "garden grabbing" developments (Croydon Guardian 13th January) and this application at 59 Greenview Ave., is another example of backland, back garden development, which is totally inappropriate for this residential location. **The Housing and Planning Minister John Healey**, has published independent research that shows high levels of inappropriate buildings on back gardens and *["calls on councils to use their powers to stop 'garden grabbing.'" We referenced these statements in our objection to 59 Greenview Ave., which was sent to Croydon LPA on 25th Jan.](#)*

You can read all this information at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/planningandbuilding/1440008>.

Also, there is a Private Members Bill See:

<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200607/cmbills/019/07019.i-i.html>)

Recent Decisions:

09/02081/P Full Planning Permission Registration: 17/08/2009

79 Gladeside

Retention of additional windows to the roofs and flank walls of the two new properties.

Statement by Planning Officers:

Email correspondence has been received from the applicant which includes correspondence between the applicant and Monks Orchard Residents Association (MORA).

MORA have indicated in this correspondence that they will not be represented at the meeting of the planning committee and that they will not oppose the application

Decision : Permission Granted 14/01/2010

09/02989/P Full planning permission Registration: 20/10/2009

219 Wickham Road

Use of ground floor for purposes within class A3 (restaurant and cafe) and erection of extract ducting at rear.

Delegate Decision: Approved 11/12/2009

New Applications:

Ref: 09/03647/P Registration Date: 24/12/2009

59 Greenview Avenue,

Demolition of existing building; erection of two/three storey building with accommodation in roofspace comprising a 40 bedroom care home for the elderly with associated communal, landscaping; alterations to vehicular access and provision of associated parking area

Flyer Prepared and distributed; 200 copies (to be confirmed at meeting)

MORA Objection sent 25th Jan 2010

Consultation Letters sent 79

Letters Against : 45 For: Nil Petitions: Nil

LGO Progress Report : Complaint Ref: 09 012 398 [79 Gladeside]

This complaint is still with the LGO and we await the outcome of their investigation.

Ongoing:

09/02365/P Full planning permission Registration: 14/09/2009

Bywood Cottage, 2A Bywood Avenue

Demolition of the existing building; erection of a two storey building with accommodation in the roofspace comprising 4 two bedroom and 4 one bedroom flats; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking, cycle/refuse storage.
MORA Objection sent 18/10/2009.

Application withdrawn 06/11/2009

09/01448/P Full planning permission Registration: 12/06/2009

102, 102A, 104, 104A and 104B The Glade

Retention of vehicular and pedestrian access as an amendment to 04/05082/P for the erection of 5 houses on land at 102-104 The Glade and adj 31 Watlings Close.

MORA Objection sent 05/07/09

Chaser sent to Head of Planning Control on 14/11/2009

Chaser sent via Cllr. Avril Slipper on 01/02/2010.

The application as submitted has been found to be invalid.

A letter has been sent to the developer to the effect that as 7 months has now elapsed and the requested information has not been received, if it is not forthcoming within 14 days (Ed from 28/01/2010) the file will be passed to the enforcement team.

08/02647/P

Registration date: 14/07/08

Reg. of land as a Town or Village Green.

Land R/O, 20-34 The Glade,

Registration of land as a Village Green (Main Reference CROY/VGA/08/02) under the Commons Act 2006.

MORA case for supporting the application sent 6/09/2009

As of 01/02/2010 the LPA Webpage indicates the case has not yet been decided.

Appeal Decisions:

08/02069/P Full planning permission Registration: 10/06/2008

Land at, Glade Gardens

Erection of 2 two storey buildings with accommodation in roofspace comprising 7 one bedroom and 2 two bedroom flats; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Appeal Allowed: 30/11/2009

09/01163/P Full Planning Permission Registration: 22/05/2009

73-75 Orchard Way

Demolition of existing buildings; erection of two storey building comprising 8 two bedroom and 4 three bedroom flats; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

75 Orchard Way was destroyed by fire on evening of 5th October.

Appeal allowed on 3rd February 2010.

Main reason that the precedent has been set by the approval of 141 Orchard Way for the block of flats now known as Chasely Green Court. You can blame the planning councillors for allowing the third application.

Adjacent Borough Planning Issues

London Borough of Bromley

Demolition of No. **80 The Alders** and construction of 8 detached and semi-detached houses with access drive and bridge over the River Beck.

The Bromley Planning Committee voted unanimously to reject the proposal on 21st January 2010.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Reports

Ashburton SNT have been busy holding Burglary Road Shows across the ward and a Road Show for the Monks Orchard area of the ward is planned for the spring. This will give residents the opportunity to meet members of the team and to receive crime prevention advice directly from officers.

Burglary is still a concern across the Borough. Unfortunately Ashburton has not escaped an increase over the winter months. Many of the burglaries have occurred in other parts of the ward, however Monks Orchard has seen six burglaries during December and January.

Ashburton SNT now have two additional Police Community Support Officers, up from three to five. This has now provided the team the opportunity to divide the ward into five micro beats, which allows for each PCSO to have ownership for their part of the ward. Monks Orchard is now patrolled by two officers

on a permanent basis. Having ownership of a smaller area will allow them to understand the issues in the area and provide a familiar face for residents to get to know. The two officers are PCSO Derek Fletcher and PCSO Ryan Mills.

In 2009 the Metropolitan Police launched the Policing Pledge - Our Promise to Citizens' that sets out the standards of service that the public can expect from the Metropolitan Police and all its officers and staff.

- We will introduce ourselves.
- We will find out what people's individual needs are and try to meet them. If we are unable to meet them we will explain why
- Sometimes our procedures seem complicated so we will tell people what is going to happen next and why.
- When appropriate we will provide a reference number and a contact number.

We will keep people informed with regular updates.

The Pledge also has a number of numerical targets in relation to:

- Call handling times for 999 and non-emergency calls
- Response times for emergency and less urgent requests for assistance
- Responding to calls to Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- Contacting those involved in road traffic collisions

Responding to service complaints.

May I also say a big thank you to PC Peter Jacques who left the team at the end of last year to take up a position with the Royalty Protection Group. I would also like to introduce PC Steve Keahey who is the replacement officer for PC Jacques. PC Keahey has been a Police Officer for six years and has spent most of his time on a response team on Croydon Borough. He is looking forward to his new challenge and role, serving the Ashburton community.

Sgt Paul Harrison
Ashburton Safer Neighbourhood Team

Dear Reader,

I would like to make you aware of another scam. A female resident reported to police that she received 2 strange phone calls from a male saying he was a police officer and asked for her to place her bank card in an envelope and an officer would be along to collect it. They also asked for her account number and the balance. Fortunately this lady realised it was not a legitimate call but has still caused her some anxiety. Police would not conduct investigations like this. Should we need personal information like this, we would attend in person and have identification to prove who we are. Do not give out any personal information over the phone if you are not sure who you are speaking to. If anyone comes to your door claiming to be a Police Officer or any other representative, ensure you inspect their identification before letting them into your home.

Last month the team invited the DVLA to Shirley in order to target some of the untaxed vehicles that clog up our roads. We patrolled some of the streets in and around Wickham Road and Shrubland's Estate and found vehicles with tax a few weeks out of date and others that had expired by over 2 months. Registered keepers of 4 cars received a ticket of £100 and a further four vehicles were clamped and later removed. If there is a car near you that has an expired tax disc, please let us know. We also conducted surveys in a few locations in Shirley asking residents for their views on anti-social drivers. Speeding motorists was an overwhelming concern of the people we spoke to. The locations of particular note were Wickham Road, Orchard Avenue and Bridle Road. I am currently in the process of arranging for the team to be fully trained in the speed gun equipment provided by Croydon Council, so that we can begin to catch some of the culprits and make Shirley's roads safer. I will also look at the possibilities of including our traffic branch and setting up ANPR (Automated Number Plate Recognition) to catch those without insurance etc.

A/Sgt Simon Packham
Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Team

Area Managers and Road Stewards

The MORA Area is divided up into Zones and the Membership Secretary allocates separate Zones to Area Managers covering the various streets/roads within the zone. Each Area Manager divides up the Zone into separate Roads/Streets allocated to Road Stewards who deliver the quarterly MORA Newsletters, collect MORA yearly subscriptions and to distribute yearly membership cards. The Road Stewards pass on cash collected and the membership card receipts to the Area Manager who passes these on to the Membership Secretary for logging on the membership database and the funds collected to the Treasurer. This structure has worked well for a number of years but we have an increased number of vacancies for some Area Managers and Road Stewards who have resigned for various reasons. The loss of Road Stewards and Area Managers is putting a major increased workload on the Membership Secretary who is taking on the delivery and collection etc for these vacant positions. We therefore **urgently** require volunteers as Area Managers for the following:

Area A Area Manager Vacancy

Currently covering 10 Road Stewards with a total of 237 Members

Area D Area Manager Vacancy

Currently covering 7 Road Stewards with a total of 162 Members

Area E Area Manager Vacancy

Currently covering 7 Road Stewards with a total of 162 Members

Area G Area Manager Vacancy

Currently covering 11 Road Stewards with a total of 202 Members

Also; to reschedule and reduce loads on our existing and vacant Road Stewards, we urgently require volunteers for more Road Stewards. We will reschedule to keep the residents allocations within close proximity to volunteers areas.

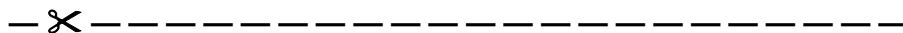
Please contact our Membership Secretary Diane McInerney on 

MORA
ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st Dec 2009

	2009	2008
INCOME		
Subscriptions & Donations	3851	4769
Bank interest	8	7
Advertising revenue	1340	1855
Total	5199	6631
EXPENSES		
Printing & stationery	4626	4364
Road Stewards	400	400
Hall hire	47	45
Vestry hire (2)	nil	nil
Chairman's/secretarial expenses	nil	nil
Sundries	206	262
Insurance (BTCV)	100	100
Donations	200	145
Audit	10	10
Website	20	nil
Subscription to BTCV	35	36
Total	5644	5362
Surplus	-445	1269
CURRENT ASSETS	2009	2008
Current account	6100	6551
Deposit account	4942	4936
CURRENT LIABILITIES	nil	nil
NET CURRENT ASSETS	11042	12756
Carried forward from previous year	11487	10218
Balance for current year	-445	1269
Grand total	11042	11487

MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010

President	VACANT	
Chairman:	BOB AKERS	
Vice Chair:	VACANT	
Secretary:	DAVE KING	
Membership Secretary:	DIANE McINERNEY	
Minutes Secretary:	MARY EVANS	
Acting Planning Officer:	IAN FRASER	
Hon. Treasurer &		
Advertising Manager:	TERRY GREENWOOD	
Editor / Website	DEREK RITSON	
Social Secretary:	CHRISTINE ROSS-SMITH	
Transport & Highways:	RAY HAMBLING	
Police Liaison/Security:	JEAN COOK	
Primary Care:	MERCIA NASH	
Committee Member &		
Area Manager:	MICHAEL NASH	
Neighbourhood Partnership:	VACANT	
Area Manager	PATRICIA TURNER	
Joint Archivist	SHEILA WAGLAND	
Tree & Open Space Officer	VACANT	



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. Please pass on to a non-member.

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