

# Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

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**NEWSLETTER - Summer 2011**

[Artists Impression—not to scale]



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

## *Chairman's Comments*

The Summer Solstice has just passed but much of the summer remains which we hope will bring back the glorious Spring weather we had.

Many of you are aware of the proposal by Crystal Palace Football Club to have a new training ground built on Ashburton Common.

It appears this has the support of Croydon Council but I have been informed by a long-standing member of MORA that he seems to remember that Lord Derby, who once owned much of the area, gave land to the Council for public use in perpetuity. We will research this matter more fully.

Elsewhere in this issue a report on the meeting with Crystal Palace Supporters Trust (CPST) can be found.

We have now been informed that changes to bin collections will happen from October 2011. It is relevant that your scribe emailed your MP for Croydon Central, and Mike Fisher (Leader of the Council) some time ago regarding rumours this was likely to happen. No answer was received.

We then find that the Government have done yet another 'U' turn about weekly collections. Clearly our Council, among others, were ready for almost immediately the "red button" was pushed and now it has been confirmed.

I suggest residents prepare a spreadsheet so they can keep on top of what seems a convoluted arrangement!!

I would draw your attention to the work done by Ian Fraser on your behalf. Ian looks after planning matters. He is constantly on the watch for applications which are not in keeping with our area. Despite changes in planning such as 'permitted development', he has had many successes in obtaining refusals.

Finally I must inform you of the sad passing of Sheila Wagland, a Committee Member of long-standing. Sheila had been unwell for some time and our condolences, as I am sure yours, go out to her family.

**Dave King**  
**Chairman**



# **Minutes of the 87th Annual General Meeting of Monks Orchard Residents' Association held on Friday 15th April 2011 in St George's Church Hall.**

## **Welcoming Address**

Dave King opened the meeting by introducing himself as the new Chairman, replacing Bob Akers, and thanking everyone for attending.

## **Invited Guests & Presenters**

Thanks to everyone for attending with special thanks to: Mayor Avril Slipper and her consort Mr Slipper, Gavin Barwell MP for Croydon Central & Steve O'Connell GLA Member for Croydon & Sutton, Ward Councillors for Shirley Ward: Cllr. Mike Fisher - Leader of the Council, Cllr. Richard Chatterjee, Cllr. Janet Marshall; Ward Councillor for Ashburton Ward: Cllr. Adam Kellett, PC Marco Lombardo from Ashburton SNT and PCSO Luke Terry from the Shirley SNT, Vice Chairman & Secretary of Spring Park Residents' Association: Trevor Ashby & Lesley Godden; Marzia Nicodemi – Editor of Shirley Life, and our special guest speaker Dr Ford MRCOG MRCGP who will be enlightening us on the changes to the NHS.



## **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Eddy Arram – Ashburton ward, Christine Ross-Smith – Social Secretary and Mary Evans - Secretary.

## **Minutes of the 86th 2010 AGM**

The minutes of the AGM were accepted as a correct record. Proposed by Frank Brooks and seconded by Adele Sluce.

## **Matters Arising**

- Mere End:

There is still a problem with a resident abusing the parking in Mere End, despite MORA campaigning to the Council on residents' behalf. We asked that one of the Councillors addresses this issue during the meeting.

## **Officers' Reports:**

### **Chairman's Report:**

MORA has been blessed with new members over the last year, this has allowed us to upgrade the newsletter to colour and update the website – thanks in a great part to Derek Ritson, who was also responsible for organising the AGM over the last few weeks.

This is the 87th MORA AGM and I am confident that MORA will continue a lot longer.

We are here to help the residents: Continue to monitor planning applications - Ian Fraser will give a report on the year's activities later - attend Council meetings and report on local issues.

We have sent a detailed response to the Planning Core Strategy consultation.

We were unable to stop the music licence at the Orchard Public House; one resident was so upset by this that he withdrew his membership. We ask our members to let us know the issues they are facing – don't bottle it up.

MORA campaigned to keep Shirley Library open and sent a detailed submission to Cllr Sara Bashford, Cabinet Member for Customer Service, Culture & Sport, after it was proposed for closure due to budget cuts. The decision has now been delayed until September and we ask local councillors to address this later in the meeting.

We would like to thank the excellent work undertaken by Area Managers and Road Stewards who distribute approximately 2,000 newsletters quarterly, collect the annual subscriptions and keep in touch with our members, without whose efforts the Association would cease to exist.

We need Area Managers to deliver our Quarterly newsletters to Road Stewards and Road Stewards to deliver quarterly newsletters and collect yearly membership fees.

Anyone willing to undertake these important activities for the residents, please contact a committee member or the Membership Secretary - Diane McInerney on [REDACTED].

Apologies to James Burke for not contacting him sooner regarding helping on the committee.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Terry Greenwood introduced himself as Treasurer and in charge of advertising.

A copy of the Accounts to 31st December 2010 was published in the Spring 2011 Newsletter and a few copies are available in the hall.

During 2010 MORA income was £6245, expenditure was £5914 and assets were valued at £11373. We made £331 profit for the year as well as spending £4815 on Printing and stationery. Terry thanked the road stewards, area managers and Diane McInerney for all their hard work collecting money for memberships and re-iterated that we would not exist without them.

MORA made a donation of £50 to a lady raising funds for the hospital that helped her newborn son. The lady in



**Terry Greenwood  
Treasurer &  
Advertising Manager**



question also raised £3000 which was shared between three hospitals plus a small donation to London Ambulance Service.

## Planning Report

Ian Fraser introduced himself as the new Planning member and thanked Derek Ritson for his help throughout the year.

We had a successful year: We won nine out of 10 objections and we are still awaiting a decision on the other one. Of these we had 6 appeals and only one of those was allowed. We are also awaiting possible development of Metropolitan Land at Poppy Lane.

The plans submitted that we have dealt with ranged from a 40 bedroom Care Home to a large back garden development.

One of our fights was outside the MORA area; this was for development in Love Lane, Woodside, which is Metropolitan Open Land (MOL); we felt that we should join the fight against this as we have a similar problem in Poppy Lane and didn't want a precedent set in the area. MORA will always fight to protect MOL.

It is not just MORA but all members of the community campaigning together that has helped our success, a prime example of which was Oak Way. [Ed - which has since gone to appeal and for which MORA has requested dismissal.](#)

We include planning information in our newsletters and attend planning meetings on your behalf.



**Ian Fraser  
Planning**

## Ongoing:

**Poppy Lane** – Potential for number of houses to be built on MOL. A meeting was organised with the developer but had to be cancelled due to snow and the developer has made no further contact with MORA.

**31A Woodmere Avenue** – Substantial development of 12m square extension. The developer is now trying to get LDC for an outbuilding including a gym. Once developed this 'gym' could be used for any purpose and we feel there is an abuse of the system here. The same developer is also applying for back and side extensions to the existing bungalow.

**104a The Glade** – Developer built houses with no access and is now trying to force access.

**CPFT Training Facilities** – Crystal Palace Football Trust (CPFT) wish to build pitches and facilities on Ashburton playing fields which is MOL. As this is such a big issue a public meeting had been arranged with the CPFT Supporters Club at St George's Church on the 17th June.

**Glade Gardens village green** - It looks like this will be refused as the panel decided a road of 20 dwellings is not regarded as a neighbourhood.

Councillor John Perry was quoted as saying 'We are working hard on a development framework. The Government has announced permission for back garden developments will be harder.' Which MORA believes this can only be a good thing.

### Security Report

Jean Cook introduced the Safer Neighbourhood Teams: PC Marco Lombardo from Ashburton SNT and PCSO Luke Terry from the Shirley SNT.



**Jean Cook**  
**Police Liaison**

#### SNT Reports - Ashburton Team

PC Marco Lombardo addressed the audience:  
A ward panel decide priorities for the ward which are:

##### Drug dealing and drug use;

There are no serious issues regarding drug dealing or drug use within the ward.

##### Burglaries:

In the last month there have been 4 burglaries: Three were from lead being stolen from roofs and the other one was a break in where a mobile phone was stolen.

##### Theft from motor vehicles:

Ashburton playing fields area is a target for car crime at the moment: Most of the time the thieves steal nothing.

##### Precautions to take:

Burglaries: Lock the house, check all fences and make sure outside lights are working.

Cars: Lock your car and don't display valuables to prevent targeting.



**PC Marco Lombardo**

#### SNT Reports - Shirley Team

PCSO Luke Terry addressed the audience:

Since the last AGM Sgt Dave Sutton has joined the Shirley SNT.

The panel for Shirley ward's priorities are:

Theft from motor vehicles (TFMV)



Before Christmas the number of reports of TFMV came to nineteen or 20 a month. Since Christmas the police have been sending reminders to 'keep valuables hidden' to owners of motor vehicles displaying valuables. The number of crimes has now reduced to six a month.

#### Burglaries:

The Shirley area recently suffered from a spate of three to 4 burglaries a week. A prolific burglar has since been remanded in custody and the number has now reduced to 1 a month.

#### Burglar alarm cold calls:

There has been a company phoning around the area asking people for their details to get a free alarm or security survey. Do not give your details to these or any other cold callers.

#### Mobile speed cameras:

The police have recently carried out a successful campaign to stop people speeding by using mobile speed cameras in Verdayne and Firsby Avenues.

If your road is having problems with people speeding then please contact the Shirley SNT.

#### **Social Activities**

In the absence of Christine Ross-Smith, Dave King reported on her behalf. There have been a number of activities at the Shirley Lunch and Supper Club including: Christmas at The Chateau, Burns Night at The Coney, lunch in West Sussex and a tour of the Olympic Village. The next trip is to Bruges and plenty more are planned so if you would like to join please contact Christine Ross-Smith [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED].

#### **Election of Officers**

We have not received any nominees.

Since last AGM: Nicki Smith returned, Rosemary Rabin worked on Open Spaces and Joan Pring has joined representing neighbourhood partnerships. Rosemary Rabin has now had to leave the committee due to other commitments, I am sure we will all miss her excellent articles in the newsletter. We currently have vacancies for Open and Green Spaces, Transport & Highways, Vice Chair and President and would appreciate any volunteers for these positions.

All current committee members wish to stand for re-election. Unanimous re-election of all committee members by attendees.



### **Any Other MORA Business**

Honorary Life Membership was presented to Bob Akers for his hard work as Chair of MORA for 13 years.

Bob thanked MORA for the award and said he felt proud to have added his name with the others that have helped the community. He also thanked all those that helped him over those 13 years and Dave King for taking over the Chair at short notice when he wasn't well enough to continue.



**Dave King presenting  
Honorary Membership  
Certificate and  
gift to Bob Akers**

### **Presentation from The Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Avril Slipper:**



**The Mayor of Croydon,  
Councillor Avril Slipper**

The Mayor reported on her numerous attendances throughout her term including her own nominated charities: Help for Heroes – chosen in honour of the sad loss of Danny Simpson of Woodmere Avenue and Croydon Pre-school Opportunity Group which is a special needs charity for pre-schoolers.

Avril is also pleased to announce that the Rifles Regiment will be exercising their right to the Freedom of Croydon by parading through Croydon on 14th May and will be playing outside the Whitgift Centre at 11:15 and also holding a concert at Croydon Parish Church at 15:30 - Doors open at 3.00pm concert starts at 3.30pm - Admission is £5. All proceeds will go to The Mayors Charities, The Rifles Regimental Trust and The Rifles Benevolent Trust.

Avril also requested participants for her Mayor of Croydon's Charity Golf Day to be held on Friday 20 May at Croham Hurst Golf Club, Croham Road, South Croydon, CR2 7HJ.

### **Presentation from Gavin Barwell Croydon Central MP**

Gavin introduced himself and reported that he has opened a surgery at 133 Wickham Road, which is open Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:00. You can access his new website [www.gavinbarwell.com](http://www.gavinbarwell.com) and subscribe to his email bulletin to keep up to date with his movements. As part of his commitment to the Borough, Gavin is spending his time whilst parliament is shut helping out at various organisations in the area including: Mayday, temping at the Job Centre, working as a teaching assistant and helping to clean Long Lane woods.





**Gavin Barwell MP**

The Government is concentrating on sorting the financial mess, immigration and the welfare system, as well as improvements to planning to give neighbourhoods more power.

Gavin has fought the Government for a better deal for Croydon with regards to the asylum and judicial systems. He has fought the Council to keep Shirley Library open.

### **Presentation from Councillor Mike Fisher – Leader of Croydon Council**

Due to the difficult situation the Government is in, Croydon has to reduce its expenditure by 11% in year one, £97m in total including £46m in efficiencies over the next 4 years.

Shirley library had huge support and the Council will issue a paper in June/July regarding the Croydon library situation.

Garden grabbing is going to be more difficult.

Mike is pleased that the Crystal Palace Football training ground meeting has been planned as he would be interested to hear residents' opinions.



**Cllr Mike Fisher  
Leader of Croydon  
Council**



**Cllr. Steve O'Connell  
GLA Member**

### **Presentation from Steve O'Connell GLA Member for Croydon and Sutton**

Steve O'Connell explained there is one year until the mayor elections.

Boris Johnson has frozen his share of council tax from Croydon.

The Mayor is committed to Secure Neighbourhood Teams.

Transport problems for the community are one of Boris Johnson's concerns: The number of trams is planned to increase as is an extension to West Norwood.

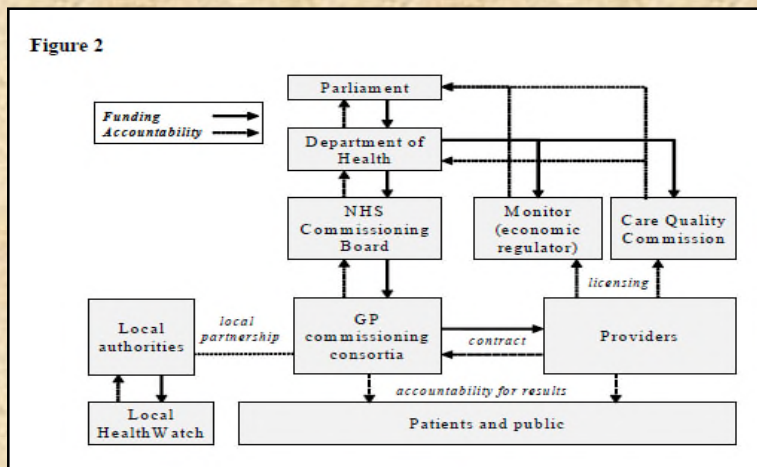
The Mayor has also changed The London Plan to protect back gardens.

**Presentation From Dr Nick Ford GP MRCOG MRCGP  
2 South Way Surgery.**

The NHS needs to be reformed because it has become remote from its patients, divorced itself from opinions of GPs, become too vulnerable to political interference and micromanagement. The SHAs and PCTs have not delivered, a top down management culture has developed, created demoralised GPs and the NHS is under new financial pressure. They will therefore be replaced by consortia made up of local GPs.

The changes to the NHS are at the point of a 6 month consultation period with a view to complete change by 2013.

**The new NHS structure will be as shown below:**



**The changes to the way GPs currently practice to now will be:**

|                               |                                                                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Currently                     | Decision making in consortia will be based on:                            |
| Individual patient focus      | Population focus                                                          |
| Clinical knowledge and skills | Epidemiology and economics                                                |
| Reactive, demand led          | Pro-active, needs-led                                                     |
| Independent practitioner      | Public steward                                                            |
| Small team                    | Large partnerships                                                        |
| Short time scales             | Long time scales                                                          |
| Activity focus                | Outcomes focus                                                            |
| Relatively light scrutiny     | Detailed scrutiny                                                         |
| Hippocratic ethic             | Utilitarian ethic                                                         |
|                               | <i>[this is a conflict of interest regarding the way most of us work]</i> |



Individual GP's will hopefully continue to practice according to the Hippocratic ethic and the priorities listed in the column on the left for the best interests of their patients will still apply.

The consortia will have to manage a combined budget, have 24/7 care responsibility, determine health needs, determine services needed, commission/contract services, monitor services and have full oversight of training

Those GP's actively involved in commissioning will have to follow the population focus and utilitarian ethic and all the principles in the column on the right when in their "commissioning role" but will still hopefully be in the left column when dealing with their individual patients.

They will be overseen by the NHS Commissioning Board who will provide national leadership on commissioning, promote public and patient involvement, ensure development of consortia, commission certain services and allocate and account for NHS resources.

In Croydon there are two consortia set up:

**1. Croydon Healthcare Consortium**

20 GP Practices

130,000 Patients

**2. Commissioning For Croydon**

56 GP Practices

200,000 Patients

Currently these consortia are testing out design concepts and exploring particular functions so that any barriers to success can be overcome quickly and providing a platform to share learning across the GP community, beyond just the pathfinders themselves and playing a role in supporting other local consortia that are less well developed.



**Q&A Session**

**Question 1** During October 2010, MORA sent a submission to Croydon Council on the Core Strategy. As we have not received any response – Could you inform us of the current situation with this consultation and whether the MORA submission has been considered?

Mike Fisher explained the Council is writing the new core strategy in June and a pre-submission document will be issued to cover all issues raised.

**Question 2** The "Permitted Development" LDC rules allow complete circumvention of UDP's and Planning Law. Recent Government Communities statements have removed Back Gardens from the "Brownfield" category with a presumption of not available for

development unless there are exceptional circumstances. We have had two recent LDC applications for sites which have been refused planning approval and dismissed on appeal only to be thwarted by an application for a Local Development Certificate for "Permitted Development." What can be done to overcome this anomaly?

Mike Fisher responded, indicating that PPG3 includes the Government commitment to improve planning and to make back garden development more difficult.

**Question 3** Please give an update on the funding of Shirley Library;  
What are the current proposals?  
What training would be given to any volunteers?

A report is going to Cabinet regarding the budget and this includes Shirley Library. The Council will look at efficiencies that can be made to keep the library open and make suggestions nearer the time, when more is known.

**Question 4** Why is the council making cuts when the Council gave themselves such generous pay rises 2009 -10? See Tax Payer Alliance Town Hall Rich List for LB of Croydon published in March 2011.

The rises in salary do not represent pay rises but are for staff that have recently joined full annual salary compared to the part of the year they joined. No senior officer will have a pay increase in the next three years and the Executive Directors are taking a 10% pay cut and been reduced from six to five.

**Question 5** Why is it that Shirley and Monks Orchard contribute a higher than average Council Tax but that our area has not been given any leisure facilities?

If the Council started again it would spread leisure facilities more fairly. However Shirley residents can use the facilities in West Wickham and Beckenham.

**Question 6** What should be done to deal with the growing number of pupils in Croydon that can't speak English and the effect that that has on the progress of all students?

As the Home Office is in Croydon all asylum seekers that do not register at point of entry come to Croydon. Although adults are dispersed, unaccompanied children are the responsibility of Croydon. Croydon received an additional £2m to support the asylum process. Immigrants at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 have been found to have adapted into school life.

**Question 7** We understand that the School Building Program has been frozen. However, Monks Orchard Primary School is in a dilapidated state and needs attention. When will this be funded?

Monks Orchard has been allocated £81,300, in years 4 and 5, to carry out repairs to roof and playground.

**Question 8** We understand that the Neighbourhood Partnership Meetings are to be abolished and are to be replaced by future road shows; how does the council intend to maintain a link with Residents' Associations to advise how and when and where these will take place?



The meetings for Neighbourhood Partnership were poorly attended and cost £35 per person attending. Due to financial restraints the Council are looking at providing different mechanisms such as workshops. These initiatives will be advertised when implemented.

### **Questions from the Floor:**

**What is happening to resolve the parking problem in Mere End?**

Mike Fisher will recheck the current situation.

Residents of Mere End can't get safe access to their homes, nor can the emergency services, due to one resident running a business from his home. The local residents in the area first complained 5 years ago and the response was that it was a temporary situation. Yet the Council have still done nothing?.

Mike Fisher promised to help residents.

**Mere End has hazard lines and is dangerous due to a blind corner. In 2008 the resident complained about resident parking causing a problem and Council did nothing?**

**The Mere End issue has been going on for over a year.!**

Cllr Adam Kellett will take up the issue and will see what he can do. Cllr Adam Kellett gave residents his contact details.

**Barbara White stated that she is pleased that back garden developments are being stopped, but asked what was the point if the developers then go to the Planning Inspectorate who then allow the developments to go through on appeal?**

Mike Fisher agrees and has already put forward a suggestion to Government that neighbouring authorities handle planning appeals instead. He is still awaiting a reply. Gavin Barwell added that if the Planning Inspectorate overturns a Council decision then residents should inform the Council as they have 12 weeks to complain and try to overturn the decision.

**Tom McMullen wanted to know if Croydon fund the translation service for all the immigrants.**

Croydon does have to fund all indirect costs for immigration including the translation service. Croydon is appealing to the Government for more financial help to meet all these costs.

**How many more houses and flats for social housing are planned in Shirley?**

Mike Fisher indicated that Shirley is in the East region which has little development. Most developments are planned for the Central area and the A23 corridor. He stated he is not a fan of housing associations and would like to see more Council houses instead.



**Cllr Adam Kellett &  
Cllr Mike Fisher  
answering questions  
from members**

**Dave King** asked if there was any other business – there were no respondents.

Dave King reminded residents, as mentioned earlier by Ian; a date of 17th June has been arranged for a Public Meeting in this hall when members will be invited to ask questions and air their views on the proposal by CPST to develop Ashburton Playing Fields as a Training Ground for Crystal Palace Football Club.

There being no further questions Dave King closed meeting.



## *Review of Library Services:*

On 13<sup>th</sup> June, the Council Cabinet Met to discuss the review of the Library Consultation and the proposals for further consideration. **MORA committee members attended this Cabinet Meeting** on behalf of our members and observed from the Public Gallery in the Council Chamber .

A committee paper was tabled by Councillor Sara Bashford – Cabinet Member for Customer Service, Culture & Sport.

### **The Cabinet was recommended to:**

- Consider the outcome of the public consultation on future options for the library service.
- Agree that the Executive Director Community Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture and Sport, proceed to market test interest in the provision of a borough Library Service, jointly with the London Borough of Wandsworth.
- To bring a further report back to Cabinet on the outcome of the market testing to a future meeting of the Cabinet in September 2011.

### **The consultation set out to:**

- Inform staff and the public of the proposed options;
- Develop an understanding of the reason for the proposed options;
- Seek feedback and assess the likely effect and impact of any proposed changes on service users so that these issues could be properly considered as part of the council's decision making process;
- Allow reasonable and sufficient time for those being consulted to put their views to the council.

The options approved for public consultation included those for closure of Norbury, Shirley, Sanderstead, South Norwood, Bradmore Green, Broad Green libraries. There was also a seventh option to do nothing.

In total, 7,304 responses were received by the council including questionnaires, letters



and emails. Eleven petitions totalling 15301 signatures were submitted to the council. MORA provided a comprehensive submission on behalf of our members.

The responses unequivocally opposed any closures of library buildings and highlighted very clearly that any closures would have a significant negative impact on local communities.



**Shirley Library**

Many people and organisations came forward as part of the consultation to say that they would like to be more closely involved in their libraries and that they would be keen to support it, e.g. by fundraising or volunteering.

So, taking this into account, as well as the overwhelming opposition to closure of library buildings and the clearly identifiable impact on individuals and communities, it was concluded that the best way to achieve the savings and efficiencies is through **market testing** for the external provision of the library service followed, subject to a positive outcome, by procurement of such a service.

### **Market Testing**

The market testing of the potential for external provision of the library service will be done in a way that will not compromise the principles under which any future procurement would be conducted. It will be undertaken in accordance with the following:

- Seeking to achieve good value for money
- Ensuring a competitive process
- Ensuring non-discrimination, with fair and transparent procedures, and equal treatment of all potential suppliers
- Encouraging and ensuring continuous improvement in the delivery of Council services through the application of value for money principles
- Incorporating effective and best practice procedures
- With clarity recognizing the need for clear and understandable rules
- Minimising risks and to protect the Council's interests and reputation
- Ensuring controls and accountability, and always acting within the law
- Responsive to any weaknesses identified by internal/external audit
- Ensuring that regulations reflect the current procurement environment
- Supporting the delivery of direct services
- Setting out regulations which everyone complies with.

Market testing should enable the council to establish a view on the selection of the most

appropriate procurement route for a library service, and to identify the risks and opportunities of any procurement in detail.

### **Effect of the decision**

The decision to market test would enable the Council to assess whether there are likely to be future savings and efficiencies should procurement be progressed. The costs of market testing are estimated to be minimal, mainly consisting of officer time. If full open market procurement was undertaken, however, then the procurement costs are currently estimated to be in the region of £150k

**The final proposal is to be put to the Council Cabinet in September 2011. We will report back in our Autumn Newsletter.**

## *News from Croydon University Hospital*

### **Save the date:**

#### Croydon Health Services (CHS) public open day

CHS will be opening its doors to the public on Saturday 24 September 2011. The community event, the first open day for the new integrated Trust, will provide opportunities for everyone to come in and have a look around.

The public open day will feature something for all the family and all ages with various activities including, live entertainment, departmental and “behind-the-scenes” hospital tours, advice and information and an exhibition of posters designed by local school children. Leading up to the event the children’s posters will be displayed in Croydon’s Centrale Shopping Centre and members of the public will be able to vote for their favourite design in each category.



If you would like more information on the various sponsorship opportunities that are available or would just like to know more about the day please contact Dawn Richardson by telephone 020 8401 3000 ext 5041 or email: [dawn.richardson@croydonhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:dawn.richardson@croydonhealth.nhs.uk) and you can keep up to date with the latest open day news on the CHS website [www.croydonhealthservices.nhs.uk](http://www.croydonhealthservices.nhs.uk).



### **New Urgent Care Centre**

There have been several changes to Purley War Memorial Hospital. Building work started in January to move the outpatient department to a different part of the building, to make way for a new urgent care centre.

The modern and updated outpatient area, which opened at the end of March, features new consulting rooms and an updated waiting area and has improved the existing environment for staff and patients.

The new urgent care centre which opened on 11 April has been developed in the old outpatient area taking advantage of the close proximity of the x-ray department. It provides consulting rooms, a treatment and plaster room and diagnostics.

The new centre has been commissioned by the Primary Care Trust and it is staffed by nurse practitioners seven days a week between 8am-8pm.



**Purley War Memorial  
Hospital**

### **Stroke services amongst the best in the country**

All stroke patients in Croydon are now initially taken to the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit at St Georges Hospital Tooting and once stabilised, patients will then be moved to the stroke unit at their local hospital closer to home. Croydon Health Services NHS Trust has been rated in the top 25% in the country for its stroke services. Around 11,000 Londoners suffer a stroke each year, making it the second biggest killer in the capital and the most common cause of disability.

The National Sentinel Audit for Stroke, organised by the Royal College of Physicians, looks at the quality of care by checking the systems that are in place for patients and how the service is organised. The Audit compares the Trust against 12 indicators including whether the patient had a physiotherapy assessment within the first 72 hours of admission and had a brain scan within 24 hours of a stroke.

Lead consultant Enas Lawrence says "Being in the top quarter of the country is a tribute to the team here and the amount of effort and enthusiasm they have."

**MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
HANDY ADS SECTION**

**Whatever your property requirements  
all the signs point to**



285/287 Wickham Road,  
Shirley, Surrey CR0 8TJ  
**T: 020 8777 2121**  
E: [shirley@georgeproctor.co.uk](mailto:shirley@georgeproctor.co.uk)  
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**The Shirley Practice**

[www.theshirleypractice.co.uk](http://www.theshirleypractice.co.uk)

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*from*  
**diagnosis**    **020 8776 2332**  
*to rehab*





## Friday Market

### St Francis of Assisi Hall

[opposite Sainsbury car park, Ravenswood Av.]

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To the full extent permissible by law, Monks Orchard Residents' Association disclaim all responsibility, liability, or otherwise, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using this 'Handy Ads Section'. We reserve the right to withdraw any advertisement if we receive any complaints about the service provided. To contact us for more details, please telephone Terry Greenwood on: [REDACTED].

# **CRYSTAL PALACE FOOTBALL TRUST**

## **Public Meeting**

A Public Meeting was held on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at St George's Church Hall, Elstan Way, Shirley.

This was held as the first of a series of meetings sponsored by the Crystal Palace Supporter's Trust (CPST) to inform local residents of the proposal to use a section of the Ashburton Playing Fields as training facilities for the Club.



The Meeting was well attended by just under 100 people, also Gavin Barwell our MP and the three Ashburton Councillors – Avril Slipper, Eddy Arram and Adam Kellett all attended. There was also a contingent of police presence from Ashburton SNT. As expected, the debate became quite lively after the CPST presentation and during the question and answer session.

Raj Chandarama of the CPST gave the presentation with slides showing the draft details of the proposals.

Briefly, this means six full-sized practice facilities, a two-storey building housing offices and training facilities together with an area for parking. An artist's impression of the draft proposal is shown on the front page of this newsletter. Many residents are understood to believe a deal has already been done; Raj stated that this was not the case as two other sites have also been identified. The former NatWest Sports Club in SW16 and the Purley Way Playing Fields, although he did indicate that Ashburton Playing Fields was the preferred site.

The area of the Playing Fields of 7 hectares of the total of 24 hectares proposed to be taken by CPST is about 30% of the total. Currently the Club are in discussion with Croydon Council regarding a pre-planning application and Raj assured the audience that their views would be taken into consideration when a full planning application is made.

It appears that CPST will have a 125 year lease on the ground.

Seventeen written queries were handed to the Chair which were generally answered by Raj Chandarama.



Questions ranged from 'What happens to the existing trees', to the height of the border fencing and the distance from the neighbouring gardens. Also there were concerns raised about loss of public access to the playing fields.

It is recognised that the Ashburton Playing Fields is designated as Metropolitan Open Land and as such there are strict regulations regarding its use and development.

The evening ended with a distinct reluctance from the audience to accept that they would lose 30% of the existing playing fields and we await the outcome of further workshops by CPST and the final planning application due toward the later part of the year



Raj Chandarama (CPST)

The objective of MORA holding this meeting to allow informed debate and for local residents to ask questions, was considered to have been met and was a success. MORA will try its best to represent the views of local residents and make representations to the Planning Department when a Planning Application is made to the council.

Now that we have an understanding of the proposals and the proposed scope of use, we can be prepared for the planning application later in the year. MORA would be interested to hear your views at [monksorchardweb@btinternet.com](mailto:monksorchardweb@btinternet.com) to ensure we include them in our submission to the council. Also, if you want to show your interest, be prepared to attend the Council Planning Meeting when it is arranged. Details will be made available on the council Planning Website and the MORA website [www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk](http://www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk). If sufficient interest is shown we may be able to provide coach transport to and from the Town Hall.



# Planning Report (Up to 30/06/2011)

## New Applications

116 Tower View

Ref. 11/01166/P

Erection of 2 three bedroom link-detached houses with integral garages and 2 three bedroom detached houses with integral garages; formation of access road.

Registration Date: 26/04/2011

Decision Date: 21/06/2011

MORA Objection: Yes

Decision: Permission Refused.

**Reasons for refusal:** Development detrimental to amenities of adjoining properties and occupiers due to size and siting, loss of privacy and visual intrusion. The proposal would result in an overdevelopment due to its cramped and overcrowded layout, access arrangements, relationships with adjoining property and would not respect or improve the existing pattern of buildings and the spaces between them or maximise the opportunities for creating an attractive and interesting environment.

## Applications Pending

104A The Glade

Ref: 11/00505/P

Formation of crossover and retention of vehicular and pedestrian access serving 102, 104A and 104B The Glade and the retention of revised curtilages for 102 and 104A The Glade.

Registration Date: 17/03/2011

Target Date: 12/05/2011

Decision: No Decision

MORA objection: Yes

2 Greenview Avenue

Ref: 10/03899/P

Erection of two storey, two bedroom detached house at side; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Registration Date: 14/12/2010

Target Date: 08/02/2011

Decision: No Decision

MORA Objection: Yes

2A Bywood Avenue

Ref: 11/00587/P

Erection of three bedroom detached chalet bungalow at side; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Registration Date: 11/03/2011

Target Date: 06/05/2011

MORA objection: No

Decision: Permission Granted.

## New Appeals

7-10 Oak Way

Ref. 10/03557/P

Appeal Ref: A/11/2148021

The demolition of existing buildings (numbers 7, 8A, 9 & 10), erection of 15 three bedroom two storey houses; formation of an extension to the existing road to include a turning head and provision of associated car parking.

Registration Date: 25/11/2010 ApplicationType: Outline planning permission

Decision Date: 11/02/2011

MORA objection to application: Yes



### **Planning Application Decision: Permission Refused**

The siting and layout would not respect or improve the existing pattern of buildings giving a cramped and overcrowded layout out of keeping with the character of the area and street scene. The development would not respect the height and proportions of surrounding buildings and would be detrimental to the street scene. The layout would be detrimental to the amenities of 8 Oak Way. The development would not offer a contribution towards sustainable transport initiatives in the vicinity. A sustainability statement had not been submitted. A tree survey showing removed and retained trees was not submitted. Inadequate provision had been made for car parking. A Flood risk assessment had not been submitted. There is a potential of flooding, destroying wildlife habitats, damage to a natural amenity and interruption of the continuity of the linear habitat of a watercourse.



A sustainability statement had not been submitted. A tree survey showing removed and retained trees was not submitted. Inadequate provision had been made for car parking. A Flood risk assessment had not been submitted. There is a potential of flooding, destroying wildlife habitats, damage to a natural amenity and interruption of the continuity of the linear habitat of a watercourse.

**Appeal Date:** 22/03/2011    **MORA objection to appeal:** Yes

**Appeal decision:** No appeal decision

### **Other Applications**

#### **Land at Poppy Lane**

**Ref: None**

MORA understand that plans are being prepared for a planning application for a number of properties proposed to be built on a large site which has previously been designated as Metropolitan Open Land [MOL] in Poppy Lane. We still await further developments.

#### **Land on Ashburton Playing Fields**

**Ref: None**

Crystal Palace Supporters Trust (CPFT) is preparing plans to develop a very large proportion of Ashburton Playing Field as a training ground. MORA have already organised a meeting for local residents to hear about these plans from CPST. Details of this meeting are reported elsewhere in this newsletter. MORA anticipates that final plans will be put forward in **September 2011**.

### **Planning Protocol**

A little over one year ago Croydon Council announced changes in the planning protocol which controlled the influence that Residents' Associations were able to apply to the Councils planning application decisions. These protocol changes were outlined in an earlier newsletter. Earlier this year, MORA, together with other Residents Associations, were given the opportunity to comment on these changes. MORA was highly critical of these changes. **MORA understands that Croydon Council are now reviewing their protocol procedures.**

# OUR BOYS IN AFGHANISTAN

## CARE BOXES

Thank you to all those who, in the past, have donated items for the care boxes for our soldiers. We are still sending boxes so if you would like to donate anything eg beverages, sweets, gum, toiletries, DVDs, quiz books, biscuits etc, I can pass these on to Debbie Simpson (mother of the late Danny), who with a group of friends organises the boxes.



The Second Rifles go out to Afghanistan again later this year – this was Danny's regiment.

## DO YOU KNIT?

We are also sending out pull-on hats for the boys to wear under their helmets as the nights are very cold. I have a simple hat pattern if you are a knitter or if you have any spare wool, please call me on [REDACTED].

Thank you  
Lesley Plumb

## *Area Managers and Road Stewards*

**We still require additional Road Stewards for the distribution of newsletters each quarter and the collection of membership subscriptions once a year.**

**Any member willing to assist in this important activity please contact:**

**Diane McNerney on [REDACTED].**



## YOUNG EAGLES WIN FIRST TROPHY

Shirwood eagles, the u14 boys football team started up from scratch last season has won its first trophy.



The team beat Southwick Rangers 7-0 to secure the cup held in Brighton on the 4th June. Playing in the Tandridge league the team came 7th in its first season.

The team based in Shirley was started in June 2010 to help a few boys play competitive football and things have snowballed from there.

The Coaches, Colin Thomas and Corrado Vulpio have been so proud of the boys

for the work they have put in this year to achieve this success.

If any boys who are currently in year 9 wish to join this flourishing football team please come to training at Ashburton playing fields on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon.

---

### ***SHIRLEY LUNCH AND SUPPER CLUB LUNCH IN PORTSMOUTH THURSDAY, 28 JULY 2011 £41.00 PER PERSON***

*The coach will leave Wickham Road approximately 8.30am and we will make our way to Portsmouth. Our first port of call is to the Spinnaker Tower (known to the locals as 'The Lipstick') which opened in 2005 and gives fantastic views over Portsmouth. Are you brave enough to walk across Europe's largest glass floor 100mtrs up and visit the crow's nest?*

*After our visit to the Tower you will have time for coffee and visit Gunwharf Quays shops and then off to Brasserie Blanc (Raymond Blanc restaurant) for a three course lunch with a glass of wine.*

**If you would like to join this trip, please contact:**

**Christine Ross-Smith**

**Tel:** [REDACTED]

# *Volunteers Corner*

## *Pets As Therapy (PAT) Dogs.*

Most of us think of dogs as loyal affectionate companions. We are aware of some working dogs, such as Guide dogs, or the Search and Rescue ones which have been in the news recently hunting for earthquake victims.

There are, however, other dogs working with their owners on a voluntary basis, which provide regular animal companionship to patients or residents in hospitals, hospices, day-care centres and schools. Some pets also assist with the treatment of phobic patients or those with communication difficulties. Animal companionship has well



documented therapeutic effects, such as lowering blood pressure and relieving stress. Even the most withdrawn seem to open up and let down their barriers when their regular dog is near. They bring everyday life closer and patients respond to the companionship of an undemanding animal. Many residents in homes for the elderly have had dogs when younger and appreciate the opportunity to relate to a visiting PAT dog.

One of my friends on the MORA committee has a PAT dog, called Taz. (See photo) It's fair to say that Taz was an unruly and disruptive puppy! However he has always been a loving and friendly dog, and with care and constant training he is now (reasonably) well behaved. All dogs which work as PATs have to pass an assessment on their behaviour and temperament. They have to cope with being touched and handled by strangers, and have to walk well on the lead and sit and stay when required.

Taz was nearly 2 years old when he started and has now been working as a PAT dog for 6 months. He goes on weekly visits to a residential home for the elderly and a school for children with severe disabilities. He wears his PAT coat with pride and, no matter that he is occasionally a naughty boy at home, is always on his best behaviour when working.

At the home for the elderly, he goes round all their chairs to "say hallo". Many of the residents save portions of their biscuits for him, so perhaps there is an element of self interest there. Another PAT dog was instrumental in coaxing an elderly man out of his room. He had become isolated, but following the dog's visits he now socialises with other residents and has a much improved quality of life.



Taz's visits to the school are looked forward to by staff and children. The children's response to Taz has been incredible, with notable increases in their vocalisations, body movements and level of alertness. In fact the children enjoy his visits so much that they threw him a birthday party when he reached two!

Having a PAT dog requires commitment and sensitivity on the part of the owner. Some residents, or children, may be frightened of animals and the owner needs to be able to assess when to "back off", or when to use gentle encouragement. Many of the benefits of the visiting dog come with regular contact, something for patients to look forward to and talk about.

Pets as Therapy is a registered charity. Any MORA member interested in knowing more about this should contact Pets as Therapy, 3A Grange Farm Cottages, Wycombe Road, Saunderton, Princes Risborough, Bucks, HP27 9NS.

---

## *Changes to Bin Collections:*

**As of October 2011 nearly all bin collections in Croydon will change.**

Croydon Council are introducing a weekly food waste collection to every household – with the aim of reducing the remaining contents of your landfill bins, after normal recycling, by 30%. This will cut the amount of waste we send to environmentally damaging landfill sites. Houses and small blocks of flats will be the first to get the new service, followed by larger blocks of flats before March next year.

**Ed.- Always assuming that residents currently include food waste in their wheelie bin - if not, two weeks of normal refuse will mean over-filled bins!**

The council will also be collecting one of your recycling boxes each week, meaning that we only have to collect landfill rubbish every other week.

The system - already successfully used by many other councils in the UK - will allow us to increase Croydon's recycling rate by around 14%. By composting the 12,000 tonnes of food waste we will collect it will also save taxpayers around £600,000 a year compared to the old system.

The Council Refuse Department have planned this change carefully and have stated that you can rest assured that because your food waste will be taken away every week there is no risk of smelly or overloaded bins.



## Why are the council making these changes?

This approach has been taken by many other councils across the UK, and has worked well in reducing waste to landfill and increasing recycling rates. Research shows most people find systems like this easy to use and that they find taking food waste out of the landfill bin cuts down on nasty smells.

Your recycled food will be turned into useful compost rather than buried in a landfill site where it would release methane, a gas which is 20 times more harmful to the environment than CO<sub>2</sub>.

Landfill tax is going up annually so in future years the savings we make will be even greater. Furthermore the change will help Croydon to increase its recycling rate from 32% to 46%. This will put us in the top five boroughs in London for recycling and help us avoid other financial penalties that European regulations can impose on those who fail to meet ever-increasing waste targets.



## How it works

At the moment landfill bins are collected every week and the two recycling boxes are emptied fortnightly. As of October



you will get two new food waste bins - a small one for the kitchen and a larger one for outside. We will empty this every week, meaning that nothing smelly needs to go into your landfill bin.

At the same time as these new collections begin we will start collecting your landfill rubbish

every other week. So one week we will come to collect your food waste and one of your recycling boxes and the next we will collect your food waste, your landfill rubbish and the other recycling box.

The new schedules will be sent out in September.



# *Walks in Croydon : August, September*

## **Wednesday 10th August—Minibeast Hunt in Littleheath Woods.**

Meet the Friends of Littleheath at 10:00 am at the junction of Queenhill and Littleheath Road for a 1.5 hour family event/walk.

Bus T33, 64 (both stop along Farley Road opposite Littleheath Road.)

## **Thursday 18th August—Bats in Spring Park Wood.**

Meet Rob Sowter, Friends of Spring Park Wood, by the Bridle Road Entrance to the wood at 8:00 p.m. till 9:30 p.m. for an introduction to Local Bats.

Bus 194, 198 (Spring Park Wood—Bridle Road)

## **Saturday 20th August—Bats in Foxley Wood.**

Meet Friends of Foxley Wood at 8:00 p.m. by the Notice Board at the Higher Drive entrance to the wood for a woodland night time ramble. Wrap up warm and wear sensible shoes. For more information call [REDACTED].

## **Tuesday 23rd August—Friends working in Littleheath Woods.**

Meet friends of Littleheath at 10:00 am at the junction of Queenhill and Littleheath Road for a 1.5 hour summer stroll to explore why and what the friends are doing in the woods every Tuesday.

Bus T33, 64 (both stop along Farley Road opposite Littleheath Road.)

## **Friday 26th August—Night time ramble through Littleheath woods.**

Meet friends of Littleheath at 8:00 p.m. at the junction of Queenhill and Littleheath Road for a 1.5 hour evening tour through the woods in search of bats and other night time creatures. Wrap up warm and wear sensible shoes.

Bus T33, 64 (both stop along Farley Road opposite Littleheath Road.)

## **Friday 2nd September—Discover the Nocturnal Side of the Sanderstead to Whyteleaf Countryside area.**

Join the Countryside Warden for a night-time stroll through fields and woods in search of bats and other night time creatures. Meet at 8:00 p.m. at the end of Tandridge Gardens. Wrap up warm and wear sturdy shoes.





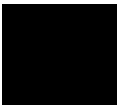
For more details call the Warden on [REDACTED].

## **Sunday 25th September—On the Nature Trail With the Warden**

Walk the scenic Happy Valley section of the Happy Valley & Farthing Downs Trail. This (usually) self-guided trail was recently re-opened with a new guide booklet. 1.5 to 2 hours. Meet at 2:00 p.m. in the Farthing Downs Car Park. Ditches Lanes, Coulsdon.

Bus 404, 466.

# MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2011-2012

|                           |                      |                                                                                   |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman                  | Dave King            |  |
| Vice Chairman             | Vacancy              | -                                                                                 |
| Secretary                 | Mary Evans           |  |
| Treasurer                 | Terry Greenwood      |                                                                                   |
| Planning                  | Ian Fraser           |                                                                                   |
| Membership Secretary      | Diane McInerney      |                                                                                   |
| Editor/Website            | Derek Ritson         |                                                                                   |
| Police Liaison            | Jean Cook            |                                                                                   |
| Primary Care              | Mercia Nash          |                                                                                   |
| Social Secretary          | Christine Ross-Smith |                                                                                   |
| Transport & Highways      | Vacancy              | -                                                                                 |
| Neighbourhood Partnership | Joan Pring           |  |
| Trees & Open Spaces       | Vacancy              | -                                                                                 |
| Committee Members Area    | Patricia Turner      |  |
| Manager and Archivist     |                      |                                                                                   |
| Committee Members & Area  | {Michael Nash        |  |
| Managers                  | {Anne Horton         |                                                                                   |
| Committee Member          | Nicki Smith          |                                                                                   |




## MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Name:      | Signature: |
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Please send this completed form to:

|                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>DIANE MCINERNEY</b><br> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Thank you for supporting MORA.**  
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